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THE APOLOGISTS OF THE PURCHASE SYSTEM.

We were not mistaken in supposing that the abolition of purchase in the Army would meet with vigorous opposition from interested parties. The military mind—so far, at least, as it is represented in the House of Commons—is up in arms against that portion of Mr. Cardwell's scheme which deals with the purchase system, and, indeed, against all parts of the scheme that have any bearing thereon. The campaign was opened on Monday night by Colonel Loyd-Lindsay, whose chief argument in favour of the existing system was, that it had produced brave officers in by-gone times (in proof of which assertion he instanced the Balaklava charge) and might therefore be relied upon to produce brave officers in the future. Now, this mode of reasoning proves that the military mind, as represented by Colonel Loyd-Lindsay, does not even yet comprehend the real question involved in the demand for army reorganisation, or see where the defects of the



MASTER M'GRATH, LORD LURGAN'S FAMOUS GREYHOUND.

present system lie. Nobody has ever denied that British officers, whether purchase men or not, have been eminently brave in the past, or doubted that they would prove eminently brave still. The gallant Colonel is himself a conspicuous example of the heroism that usually characterises British officers. But we want more than mere animal courage in the commanders of our troops: we want skill, as well as bravery. Bravery is an essential quality in a soldier; but it is a quality of which officers have no monopoly. British privates and British peasants—yea, even British roughs and British bulldogs—rarely fail to display physical daring when occasion calls for it. "That land of England" bred "very brave creatures" in the days of Agincourt; and we have no doubt it produces them still. But the buying and selling of army commissions has nothing whatever to do with the process, though it has a great deal to do with bringing about these other results—that Great Britain possesses neither a well-organised army nor thoroughly-trained



FIRE AT THE MIDLAND RAILWAY COMPANY'S STABLES, LONDON.



and skilful military commanders; and to remedy these grave defects, the direct result of the purchase system, is the object at which army reformers aim. The Balaklava charge, brilliant though it was, is in itself a proof of the defective training of British officers; for under no really skilful commander could such a wanton and useless sacrifice of gallant soldiers have occurred.

In reading the speeches delivered by military men on Monday night, two things are irresistibly impressed upon the mind: first, that the interests of the Army—by which is meant the officers thereof—are alone present to the speakers, and that the interests of the country count for very little in their estimation; and, second, that the officer class is profoundly tinctured with that huckstering, money-getting spirit which is alleged to be the distinguishing characteristic of this generation of Britons. The same tone, too, pervades the writing on this subject in all the newspapers that devote themselves to the work of defending, or apologising for, the purchase system. In fact, one cannot help feeling that the British Army, in the opinion of these speakers and writers, belongs neither to the Crown, nor to Parliament, nor to the people; but—to the officers; and that all proposed changes are good or bad, desirable or the reverse, exactly in proportion as they tend to promote or otherwise the pecuniary interests of officers. This is a very melancholy thing; but it is the natural and inevitable result of making rank in the Army a matter of traffic. A nation that “trades and marts its offices for gold,” or permits them to be so trafficked in, cannot hope to obtain good servants or to secure efficient and economic service; and that is precisely the case in which the British nation now stands as regards its Army. We have not efficient officers, because cash, not skill, is the passport to command; and our forces are badly organised, because their leaders know not how to organise them better. The purchase system thus stands condemned both in theory and in practice; and we are astonished that purchase officers, whose incapacity has brought things to this pass, should have the hardihood to stand up and defend it. That, certainly, is a display of courage which, though it might have been expected in men who regard mere bravery as the sole qualification for command, cannot be very much admired.

Colonel Loyd-Lindsay and his supporters contend that the money to be devoted to the extinction of purchase might be better employed in other ways—that is to say, in increasing the Army, and so adding to the estate of the officers: a contention not unnatural to men who deem themselves the proprietors of their corps, not the servants of the State; but one little likely to find favour with the taxpaying multitude, who want to have an army for the service of the State, not for the profit and delectation of officers; and who, moreover, think it desirable that the State should have entire control over that army, officers and all. By-the-way, this new-born anxiety of the military mind about husbanding the finances of the nation is a decidedly remarkable phenomenon. This is the first time, so far as our recollection goes, that it was ever displayed in Parliament or out of it. “More money” has ever been the cry of the military order; and we suspect that, if Mr. Cardwell had proposed a reduction, instead of an increase, in the Army Estimates, the same cry would have been raised again. Indeed, that really was the cry raised when “efficient national defences” were so loudly demanded by the military mind, which, as we recently had occasion to observe, has got in Mr. Cardwell’s scheme rather more than it bargained for. The public money is not to be spent exactly as military men wished it to be; and hence their anxiety for “a wise husbanding of the national resources.” They are content that the funds of the nation should be squandered in useless extravagance; but to abolish the purchase system, by which military members of the House of Commons have thriven, is downright sacrilege; that must not be touched, whatever is done. This is the sort of spirit that animates British officers; and this spirit, among other evil things, has been engendered by the purchase system. Of a truth, a tree is known by its fruits.

One remark made by Colonel Loyd-Lindsay was in the highest degree significant. “Competitive examinations,” said he, “are very terrible to young men.” We daresay they are—to young men who desire to obtain commissions without having qualified themselves for the posts they aspire to occupy; ay, and to older men too, who wish to rise upon like easy terms. But to men, young or old, who are eager to honestly serve their country in the Army, and who are content to rely upon merit and not upon money for promotion, competitive examinations, either initial or for advancement, will have no such terrors. They will study the principles and practice of their profession, as men in other walks of life do theirs; and, thus making themselves competent for the work they aspire to perform, will be enabled to face the examiners with as little fear as they would the enemies of their country on the battle-field. This matter of examinations is one point on which we think Mr. Cardwell’s scheme is specially defective: it makes promotion in future rest solely upon secret selection, not upon any openly-applied test of merit and capacity. This is not the plan by which Von Moltke has trained and advanced his subordinates; and it is not the plan upon which the French army is to be officered in future. If examinations are found good in Prussia, and are now to be adopted in France, why should they be bad or “terrible” in England? The military mind is much given just now to ridiculing “book learning” as a qualification for command; and it is the fashion to declare that promotion for capacity

as tested in examinations will merely lead to wholesale “cramming,” to the neglect of genuine military training. To some extent this might be true, if the examinations were managed on a faulty or merely pedantic system; but it is quite possible to prevent that. And, at all events, we could not well be worse off than we are; for, though “book learning” may not infallibly make a good officer—and we do not contend that it will—it is still preferable to no learning at all except what is acquired in the barrack-yard. Practice is necessary as well as theory; but theory is also necessary as well as practice. Fluellen was not so far wrong, after all, nor so ridiculous as some people fancy, in his passion for “discouraging of the theories of the wars.” And so we should have liked Mr. Cardwell to have made examination a prominent feature of his substitute for length of purse as a condition of promotion in the Army.

MASTER M'GRATH.

IMMENSE interest has recently been manifested in the famous greyhound, Master M'Grath, the property of Lord Lurgan and the coursing champion of England. Master M'Grath is an Irish dog, and his triumphs in the field are considered to be triumphs for his country; and the fact of his having beaten—more than once, we believe—all the dogs of England, is regarded as almost equivalent to avenging the several conquests of Ireland, from the days of Strongbow downwards. On the subject of Master M'Grath and his triumphs a “gushing” writer in the *Telegraph* thus discourseth:—

“Peace hath her triumphs,” according to the old saw, even as warriors have theirs; and certainly the hero of the moment, in a pacific sense, is Master M'Grath. It is just possible, though not probable, that there may be one benighted man in a million so ignorant as not to know who this hero is; and for his benefit we venture to mention that Master M'Grath is not a man, nor even a young gentleman in small clothes, but a simple dog. There is a grand unconsciousness about the noble animal in the midst of his triumphs which should put the human victor to shame. As the brass bands play before him ‘Lo! the Conquering Hero (or greyhound) comes,’ Master M'Grath, no doubt, does not care a button about the blare and noise. It may, perhaps, strike him as strange that, whereas in the earlier portion of his career he was allowed to live a quiet and peaceful life, he cannot now stir out without such pother and disturbance. Still less can he understand what the photographers are about when he is compelled to sit still in front of the harmless tube, which is certainly not meant for his injury. Can a dog derive any gratification from the sight of his own photograph? Most dogs have a distinct objection to the sight of their images reflected in a mirror. They are apt on such occasions to set up a dismal howl, as feeling that there is something ‘uncanny,’ to say the least of it, about those dogs in the glass, who imitate their every movement in the most provoking way. On the whole, we are of opinion that a dog derives satisfaction from a gay and handsome collar—just as a human being does from the contemplation of a Blue Ribbon round his neck, or a Garter below his knee. Why not? What is the difference between man and dog in this important particular? We have been led into this train of reflection by reading the account of the honours just paid to Master M'Grath on the occasion of his singular, or rather of his plural, triumphs. The noble brute is not a dog of an obtrusive turn of mind. Like his great predecessor, the late Duke of Wellington, his system would appear to be never to apply for honours, but to accept them meekly when thrust upon him. It is in vain, however, that modest merit seeks to withdraw itself from the public gaze. Royalty had heard of Master M'Grath, and of his great performances, and it was resolved that he should be coaxed from his retirement. As is usual in such cases, an intimation was conveyed to him in the regular way, through Sir Thomas Biddulph, that the Queen ‘would like to see him.’ To Master M'Grath the intimation was equivalent to a command, and, accordingly, his acceptance followed in due course, with a hint that he would visit her Majesty at Windsor if the necessary arrangements were made for his ‘progress.’ All suitable respect was shown to him. He left Lurgan under a proper escort, having resolved to cross St. George’s Channel between Belfast and Fleetwood. As was natural, he honoured the captain of the steamer by occupying his cabin during the passage. A carriage was ready for him, and he proceeded—incognito, we should presume—as far as Rugby; but at this point it was impossible to conceal his identity any longer. Lord Stamford, with a numerous party of friends, had taken up a position on the platform long before the arrival of the train. As it glided into the station loud cries greeted the arrival of the hero, who no doubt wagged his tail in his most affable way, in token of his pleasure at so appropriate a reception.

“From that moment Master M'Grath has revelled in a series of triumphs. He rested in London one night in order to recover from the effect of his rapid journey and the excitement of various complimentary interviews. Then he proceeded—still with his escort—by the Great Western Railway to Windsor. No public announcement of his arrival had been made, but on the platform he was met by a large and demonstrative crowd, who followed him from the station to the castle with loud and enthusiastic expressions of esteem and goodwill. Arrangements had been made for his reception. It is not usual—save, we believe, when Royalty visits Royalty—for the Queen to receive her guests at the entrance of her palace or castle. It was, however, perfectly obvious that no respect which could be shown to Emperor or Sovereign could be withheld from the all-conquering dog. The entrance-hall of the castle had been tastefully arranged for the first meeting between the Queen of England and Master M'Grath. It must have been a proud moment for M'Grath when he appeared in the presence of his Sovereign, being met as crowned head by crowned head. Seldom has hero enjoyed such a reception. Not only was he treated with the respect due to his lofty character and unblemished career, but there was a touch—may we venture to write it?—even of affection about the manner of the greeting. It would, of course, have been competent to the Sovereign to compliment Master M'Grath upon his exploits, as illustrating a bright page in the history of her reign. She might have desired him to kneel down, and rise up—Sir Patrick M'Grath. The Queen did more—her Majesty patted him! Let anyone mention to us any other example of any other hero who, on his return from triumph by land or by sea, has ever yet been patted by the Queen. Princess Louise patted him, Prince Leopold patted him—never was there such a Royal patting since the world began. Many gracious questions were asked as to his early history and early struggles, so that the Sovereign might know how Master M'Grath had attained his present high position. It had been arranged that, when the interview with the Queen was over, the illustrious visitor should be entertained in a manner worthy of the old hospitality of Windsor Castle. Sir John Cowell, the Master of the Queen’s Household, conducted him to a cold collation, of which he partook freely. He was then, with every demonstration of respect, led over the castle, and, by the Queen’s desire, the members of the household had the honour of being presented to him. It is gratifying to hear that although no order or ribbon, or any such gaud, was bestowed upon Master M'Grath, his total indifference to such honours being notorious, a gold hunting watch was presented, by her Majesty’s command, to his early tutor, his guide, philosopher, and friend, who had accompanied him on his visit to Windsor. This souvenir was in the very best taste, and must have been most gratifying to Master M'Grath’s feelings. It showed that his Sovereign could appreciate and respect the delicate susceptibilities which are sometimes, but not always, found in connection with what is called a hero’s breast.

“It may have been a proud, but it must have been a very fatiguing, day, even to a hero blessed with such thews and sinews. No sooner were the interviews and presentations over than the Windsor photographers, who had solicited the honour of Master M'Grath’s patronage, appeared upon the scene. He was ‘done’ singly, and then in company with his friend, Lord Lurgan, and his tutor. When we add that, before leaving Windsor, he visited Eton College to see the boys, everybody will feel how much of gentleness and kindly feeling there is in Master M'Grath. The boys all turned out to see the ‘illustrious stranger;’ and, on a suggestion ‘to give him a jolly,’ which appears to be the local phrase, they cheered the hero loud and long. We cannot call to mind such a reception in our time. Something of the same sort took place in 1815, when the Allies were in England; but that is mere legend to the present generation. It is clear that, in one way or another, Master M'Grath has contrived to get at the ‘great heart’ of the nation. Persons of all ranks and ages follow him about as one of the glories of the three kingdoms. He was pleased to visit Lady Dawtrey and the Countess of Waldegrave, each of whom held morning receptions in his honour. At Lady Waldegrave’s the North German Ambassador and Countess Bernstorff were presented to him; though clearly, in this case, it was Master M'Grath who was the hero of the hour. Having partaken of a slight collation at both residences, Master M'Grath afterwards visited the Prince of Wales, at Marlborough House. He appeared to be much gratified by his interview with the Princess, and exchanged tokens of warm amity and friendship with Prince Arthur. Yet again—to quote another remarkable instance of his readiness to give pleasure—no sooner was it intimated to him that his friend Lord Lurgan was a member of Brooks’s Club, than he determined at once to proceed there and make the acquaintance of the members. This condescension must have been extremely gratifying to Lord Lurgan; and we need scarcely say that the visit to Brooks’s was wholly unconnected with politics. It must be taken as a purely social and private matter, and shows both Master M'Grath and the Irish peer in a very amiable light. On Saturday week he was to return; and we believe he actually did return to Ireland, taking back with him, as we trust, not unpleasant recollections of England and the English. How pleasant it is to think that we can turn once more to such heroism as that displayed by Master M'Grath in the course of his illustrious career, and to the contest which is so soon to come off between the champions of the Light and of the Dark Blue! Let us all join with the Eton boys in giving Master M'Grath ‘a jolly.’”

DESTRUCTIVE AND FATAL FIRES.

CONFLAGRATION AT THE MIDLAND RAILWAY STABLES.

SHORTLY after four o'clock on the morning of Thursday, March 2, the inhabitants of the north and north-western suburbs of the metropolis were aroused from their slumbers by a clatter and wild excitement through the principal thoroughfares, accompanied by an illumination of the horizon, which told that some extraordinary calamity had happened in one of the large depôts for horses with which the district is known to abound, in connection with the termini of the great railways, the London and North-Western, Great Northern, and Midland.

The conflagration and its incidents bore close resemblance to a similar catastrophe which took place some few years since at the Camden Goods Department of the London and North-Western, when several hundred horses were let loose, and made their way in every direction, with this difference, that on this occasion the stampede was the more alarming, being at an hour when quietude reigned around, instead of in the evening, when many hundreds of people were about. The premises (a rather long range of buildings) in which the fire took place are situated in King’s-road, Camden Town, and belong to the Midland Railway Company. They are upwards of 400ft. in length and 40ft. in breadth; are bounded on the east by the ale-stores of Messrs. Bass and Co., adjoining the Midland goods and mineral station, and by the St. Pancras workhouse; and on the west closely abut upon the range of stabling and buildings forming the eastern side of the Royal Veterinary College. The building has only been in existence two or three years, and is substantially built of brick, two stories in height, and is calculated to accommodate about three hundred horses. At the time of the outbreak of the fire there were as many as 245 horses in their stalls in the basement, whilst the lofts above, which ran the entire length of the building, were completely filled with hay, straw, and other provender, and stores of various descriptions. The different stables and lofts are distinguished by numbers; and about ten minutes past four o'clock one of the men, who had to get up early upon some special duty, observed that there was fire issuing from one of the windows of the loft facing King’s-road, in block numbered seven or eight, he could not say exactly which. He immediately raised an alarm, and some other of the employees, with Mr. Superintendent Bradshaw, of the Midland Company, who resides on the spot, were quickly in attendance. The first act was to turn out all the horses—a proceeding that was effected with much difficulty, as the flames spread with immense rapidity, igniting the forage throughout the entire length and breadth of the building. The horses on reaching the streets went galloping away, without bit or bridle, in every direction as if they were infuriated; but two poor animals in their bewilderment, after being driven out, rushed back again into the building, which by this time was burning furiously, and perished in the flames. Whilst the horses were being got out Superintendent Bradshaw succeeded in bringing up the fire-brigade of the Midland Railway with their two engines, which were stationed at the Camden Town goods depôt, and they were the first to get to work—one at 4.30, and the other at 4.32. The Pratt-street engine of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade next arrived; and ultimately seven engines belonging to the various stations of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, being six steamers and one hand-engine, were set to work. The entire building was, however, in flames from end to end, and resisted all the efforts of the firemen and police until nearly eight o'clock, by which time the premises were completely gutted and the roof burned off from end to end.

The origin of the fire is enveloped in mystery, and is not without suspicion that it must either have been the result of some gross carelessness or that it was the work of an incendiary, as there is no gaslight or any other light permitted in the lofts, although the stabling beneath is lighted with gas jets. When the horses were turned out the general stampede that took place had the effect of frightening the animals themselves. Some started off at full gallop, and never stopped till they reached the heights of Hampstead and Highgate, the new cattle-market being a favourite place for the halt. Vast crowds of persons had assembled round the scene of the conflagration in King’s-road, and great difficulty was experienced in keeping the avenues clear throughout the day. The loss sustained amounts to many thousands of pounds, but the Midland Company are, it is stated, fully insured.

FATAL FIRE IN EDGWARE-ROAD.

A fire, resulting, unhappily, in fatal consequences to five persons, took place on Sunday morning in a ten-roomed house, belonging to Mr. W. Halley, a fruiterer and greengrocer, No. 1, Chapel-street, Edgware-road. The discovery appears to have been made by the police-constable on duty in the street. Mr. Halley, his family, the servant-maid, and two friends were, at the time, in their beds asleep. The officer at once set about awakening the inmates, and sent for the fire-escape, which arrived in the course of a few minutes, when it was found that the shop, parlour, the staircase, and the back room on the first floor were in a general blaze, thereby cutting off all means of escape by the regular way. Several persons then made their appearance at the different windows. One was Mrs. Halley, with an infant in her arms. Some of the neighbours having procured a blanket, they attached

it out and told the mother to drop the child and they would catch it. She did so, but the child fell outside the blanket, and was killed. Mitchell then raised his ladder to the first-floor window and succeeded in bringing down Mrs. Halley and her husband; but while he was doing so Richard Halley, one of the sons, aged fifteen, jumped out of the second-floor window, and was killed. A brother of the last named, aged nineteen, also jumped from the same window, and was so seriously injured that he was removed to St. Mary's Hospital. A child, aged two years and six months, named Alfred Halley, was also dropped from one of the windows, and, being seriously injured, was taken to the hospital. Both these lads have since died. As soon as the fire had been got under and the ruins were sufficiently cooled, the firemen and salvage corps entered them, and found the body of Catherine Shirley, aged eighteen, who had acted as servant to Mr. Halley, frightfully burned, in the second-floor room. Nothing is known as to the origin of the calamity. Mr. Halley was insured.

FATAL CONFLAGRATION AT HORNSEY.

On Sunday evening a fire broke out in a house at Hornsey, occupied by Mr. Gardiner, a plumber and glazier. Mr. and Mrs. Gardiner had gone out in the evening, it is said, for the purpose of going to church, leaving three children, aged respectively six, four, and two years. Nothing is known as to how the disaster originated; but the screaming of the children attracted attention, and the room in which they were left was seen to be on fire. The flames spread with such rapidity that they could not be rescued, and were burnt to death. The Highgate Volunteer Fire Brigade turned out with praiseworthy alacrity, and prevented the fire from extending further.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

A serious disturbance is supposed to be brewing in Paris. The ultra-Republicans of Belleville and Montmartre, who are all armed with muskets and have a good supply of ammunition, have entrenched themselves at Montmartre on the north and Montreuil on the south, and openly set at defiance the rest of the city. As yet the Government has taken no active measures against them; but on Tuesday General d'Aurelle de Paladines, in an order of the day, on assuming the command of the National Guard of the Seine, announced his firm intention to repress energetically anyone who should attempt to disturb the public tranquillity. On Tuesday there was a mutiny in the tenth battalion of the Mobiles of the Seine, who threatened to hang their commander. It was, however, quelled without serious consequences. Several commanders of battalions of the National Guards have presented a memorial to General d'Aurelle de Paladines in favour of the principle of electing their Commander-in-Chief. The extreme Reds are said to be very indignant at the appointment of General d'Aurelle de Paladines to the command of the National Guards, for it implies that this arm of the service must learn new habits of discipline. The Mayors of Paris have unanimously expressed their opinion that the National Guard will surrender their cannon without any coercion. Upwards of one hundred battalions of the National Guard of Paris have sent to General d'Aurelle de Paladines to congratulate him on his appointment as chief commander. It is expected that on the return of those deputies for Paris who have tendered their resignation the agitation will cease. The Government maintains a conciliatory attitude, and will only gradually suppress the daily indemnity of 15. 50c.

The garrison of the city is to consist of 40,000 troops, under General Vinoy. The men are coming in daily. The soldiers from the Army of the Loire are in a deplorable condition, and look as though they had suffered greatly. They are encamped in the Champs de Mars.

General Barry has been appointed Commander-in-Chief of the 16th Army Corps at Laval. The Army of the North is being disbanded. The Minister of War, it is said, proposes a complete reorganisation of the army and a new system of fortifications along the new frontier of France. The Mediterranean squadron is to be disbanded. The Admiral will only retain three armoured ships and two dispatch-boats. The transport fleet is ready to carry 10,000 troops to Algeria.

It is reported that it has been finally settled that the Assembly will meet at Versailles; and on Tuesday next—when, we are told, the German troops leave—a French corps will occupy that town.

At the sitting of the National Assembly, on Monday, a motion was introduced by M. Louis Blanc demanding that the members of the Government of National Defence should be called upon to render an account of the manner in which they had exercised their powers; and M. Delescluze demanded their impeachment and arrest as guilty of high treason. A committee of fifteen was appointed to report on these motions. Several of the deputies from Paris have resigned their seats in the Assembly—among whom are M. Rochefort, M. Ranc, M. Malon, and M. Fridon—in consequence of the vote of the 1st ceding French territory to Germany. These four members, moreover, declared that the deliberations of the Assembly were henceforth null and void. A letter was also read from M. Félix Pyat, who stated that he considered the Assembly, by its vote of the 1st, was legally dissolved, and that he would not set foot in it again until that vote had been rescinded.

The deputies from Alsace, MM. Keller, Grosjean, Tachard, Schlegels, and Saglio, have consented to stand as candidates for the National Assembly for other parts of France.

M. Crémieux has addressed a letter to M. Grévy suggesting that the war indemnity should be promptly subscribed by private persons, according to the amount of their fortune. M. Crémieux puts his name down for 100,000 francs (£4000).

M. Thiers declined proposals for a Treaty of Commerce between France and Germany, on the ground that France would be compelled to imitate the example of the United States, and restore the equilibrium of her finances by a high tariff.

A plague of a typhoid and very fatal character has broken out among the cattle and horses of Paris. At a meeting of doctors it has been decided that the disease does not unfit the animals attacked by it from being used as food. The mortality in Paris is rapidly decreasing. Last week the number of deaths fell to 3500.

SPAIN.

A grand concert of sacred music has been given in the cathedral at Madrid for the benefit of the French wounded. An immense number of people were present, and the collection amounted to nearly 7000*l*.

The Viceroy of Egypt has agreed to the mediation of Great Britain, which had previously been accepted by Spain; and the difficulty which had arisen between the two countries is looked upon as terminated.

PORTUGAL.

The list of the Ministry has been completed. Viscount Chanceliers will be sent to London as Portuguese Minister to the Court of St. James's.

BELGIUM.

In the Parliament, on Wednesday, the Government stated, in answer to a question put, that three persons had been appointed to communicate with the municipal authorities at Sedan in order to disinfect the battle-fields. The municipality had promised the gratuitous help of workmen, and the measures have already begun to be put into execution. Steps will also be taken to recover from the bottom of the Meuse the carcasses of horses, and it is hoped the district will be protected against an epidemic.

HOLLAND.

Holland has proposed that, on the signature of the definitive treaty of peace between France and Germany, the European Powers should sanction the principle that, in time of war, private property at sea shall be respected. This principle should be first

embodied in the treaty of peace and then submitted for the adhesion of the other Powers. Holland is also said to have proposed an international convention defining the character of contraband of war. This last proposal, however, is said to have little chance of being adopted.

ITALY.

The King has written a letter to the German Emperor, expressing his surprise and disappointment at the hard terms exacted from the French, especially with regard to the cession of territory.

The difficulty which had arisen between the Governments of Italy and Tunis has been settled, and when the convention is ratified by the Bey the diplomatic relations of the two Governments will be resumed.

A treaty of commerce between Italy and the United States was signed on the 25th ult. The report of the Committee appointed to examine the Financial Convention between Italy and Austria recommends its adoption.

At a secret Consistory held in Rome on the 5th the Pope again refused to enter into relations with the Italian Government.

GERMANY.

The Emperor of Germany, accompanied by the Crown Prince of Prussia and the Crown Prince of Saxony, reviewed the Saxon and Wurtemberg troops, on Tuesday, at Villiers, to the east of Paris, the scene of the severe fighting which took place on Nov. 30 and Dec. 2 last. The headquarters of the Emperor of Germany have been removed from Versailles to Ferrières.

His Majesty will open the German Parliament on the 21st inst. A day of thanksgiving for the conclusion of peace is to be set apart on the arrival of the Emperor in Berlin.

Prince Frederick Charles has been appointed Commander-in-Chief of the German army in France, and will reside at Rheims.

The definite result of the elections in Bavaria to the German Parliament is the return of twenty-nine Liberals, seventeen Deputies belonging to the Old Patriotic party, which was opposed to the entrance of Bavaria into the German Confederation, and one Deputy of the Moderate Patriotic party. One supplementary election is still necessary.

AUSTRIA.

A telegram from Vienna mentions that some festivals there, and in other towns, proposed to be held by the German party, in honour of the German victories in France, have been forbidden by the Austrian Government.

Austria has joined with Holland in requesting the Emperor of Germany to use his influence in order to obtain the international recognition of the inviolability of private property at sea during war.

DENMARK.

A Commission elected by the Danish Government to propose improvements for the sugar traffic with St. Croix has adopted a reduction of duty for inferior sorts, and an augmentation for the finer sorts. A bill to this effect was, on Wednesday, brought before the First Chamber. The Commission recommends the total revision of the sugar traffic as now existing. The tariff protects the Scotch refineries. The Governor of the Danish West India Islands, Governor Birch, has been at St. Thomas.

AMERICA.

The new Congress met at noon last Saturday. James G. Blaine was re-elected Speaker of the House of Representatives. The House comprises 131 Republicans and 96 Democrats. The Democrats voted for George W. Morgan, of Ohio. There are sixteen vacancies.

THE BOOKSELLERS AND THE PARIS RELIEF FUND.

THE subscriptions to this fund by the publishers, booksellers, music-sellers, and printers of Great Britain have now reached the respectable sum of over £1250, and it is very satisfactory to learn that the subscriptions from these allied branches of industry in this country for the special benefit of their impoverished confreres in Paris will reach their objects directly and without expense. The London Committee were fortunate in finding in Paris an already constituted committee in the council of the administration of the Cercle de la Librairie, who entered at once most heartily and cordially into the wishes of the English contributors, and whilst expressing their vivid sense of the sympathy thus shown, set about to make out lists of proper recipients, and to distribute the provisions and money in a way which is quite in accordance with the wishes of the English committee. The first supply of provisions, which was fourteen days en route, was taken to the fine publishing establishment of MM. Hachette and Company, which, for the nonce, was converted into a grocery and bacon shop; and there, under the superintendence of a sub-committee, was distributed, in proper proportions, to recipients who had previously been furnished with tickets, according to their needs. Following this first dispatch of provisions, a sum of £500 was sent to the committee, which was apportioned thus:—£100 was reserved for the booksellers' assistants who had been wounded, and for widows and orphans of National Guards belonging to the profession, and for those who had suffered from the bombardment, not a very numerous body. The remaining £400 was divided into 1000 sums of 10*l*. each, and 1000 tickets representing a corresponding amount were issued to recipients as orders for fresh meat on certain butchers of the city, who received payment on presenting these tickets to the committee. This arrangement for distributing food seems to have been far more popular than the distribution of money would have been. English food, and the fact of its being English, was received with the most intense satisfaction. On this point the Paris committee urge the English committee to make them any further disbursements in kind, not in money; and they particularise as most acceptable ham, bacon, preserved meat, cheese, concentrated milk, and plum-pudding. In accordance with their expressed wish it is pleasant to learn that the London committee are already preparing a further shipment of these comestibles to the value of £500. It should be mentioned that the Paris Committee have made a most judicious apportionment of the provisions, &c., at their disposal to booksellers' assistants, retail booksellers, music-sellers, and to printers' employés, more especially to correctors of the press, and others connected with literature. Lest the title of the fund should have prevented printers and others from subscribing, it is well that these facts should be made known. The very fact that these donations, though individually small, have been so gratefully and warmly received by their French brethren will surely afford much pleasure to the donors; and their last appeal for plum-pudding, that very emblem of English jollity and good fellowship, surely cannot fail to touch the hearts of the many leading members of the publishing and printing businesses, both in town and country, whose names have not yet appeared in the subscription-lists. It may be as well to remind these, and all others directly or indirectly connected with literature, that the subscription-list will remain open till the end of this month; and in the mean time the secretary, Mr. E. Marston, 188, Fleet-street, will be happy to receive whatever donations may be sent to him.

AT A MEETING OF MINERS' DELEGATES from the district embracing Rochdale, Bury, and Bolton, held on Monday, resolutions were passed in favour of taking immediate action to secure an advance of 10 per cent on the wages of miners. In view of an impending strike, levies were ordered to be made upon all lodges in the district.

THE LONDON SCHOOL BOARD.—Many school managers propose to transfer the schools under their charge to this board, and are under the impression that it is in a position at once to take over and support them. This is a great mistake, which, it is feared, is likely to create mischief. A considerable time must necessarily elapse before the educational requirements of the various districts can be ascertained; and until that has been done it will be quite out of the power of the board to decide whether it is desirable to take over any of the numerous schools which are being offered to it. Should the subscribers in the mean time relax their efforts, these schools will be in danger of dwindling away or perishing altogether. It is therefore important that those whose voluntary exertions have hitherto supported these schools should not desert from their labours until the board is able to take up and complete the work which they have commenced.

NATIONAL DEBTS.

MR. DUDLEY BAXTER, in a letter to the *Times*, supplies some curious information as to the growth of national debts. He says:—"As the question of the National Debt is expected to come before the House of Commons on Tuesday next, I should like to state some of the facts that I have collected in enlarging and revising for the press a paper on that subject read before the British Association, and which will very shortly be published. The general results show very large figures, and lead to the conclusion that we are living in an age of universal indebtedness. Out of the fifty-two States and principal colonies of the civilised world, only three of the smallest appear to be free from debt—Servia, in Europe; Bolivia, in America; and Liberia, in Africa. The whole fifty-two States have a population of 606,000,000; Government revenues or taxation amounting to £596,000,000, being nearly £1 per head; and national debts with an aggregate capital of £3,900,000,000, and a total annual interest of £157,000,000. So that the annual charge of the debts of the civilised world, even including British India and Japan, is 5*s*. 2*d*. per head of the 600,000,000 of population, and absorbs a quarter of the whole proceeds of taxation.

"The rise and progress of these debts is very singular, and the figures of capital may thus be summarised. At the breaking out of the French revolutionary war the debts were, in 1793:—

Great Britain	£270,000,000
Continent of Europe	203,000,000
United States	15,000,000
British India	8,000,000
Total	£496,000,000

At the conclusion of that war, and on the settlements of accounts, the debts were in 1815-20:—

United Kingdom	£902,000,000
Continent of Europe	570,000,000
America	29,000,000
British India	29,000,000
Total	£1,530,000,000

So that in twenty years the debts had trebled, and England owed £228,000,000 more than all the rest of the world. The period from 1820 to 1848 was one of peace, and the debts were not largely increased, standing thus in 1848:—

United Kingdom	£820,000,000
Continent of Europe	746,000,000
America	114,000,000
British India	50,000,000
Total	£1,731,000,000

But the debt of England was reduced to less than half the total aggregate. After 1848 a new era began, of immense armaments and a corresponding increase of debts, so that at the downfall of the French Empire the account stood, in 1870:—

United Kingdom	£800,000,000
Continent of Europe	2,164,430,000
America	765,320,000
Asia	104,716,000
Africa	39,655,000
Australasia	35,744,000
Total	£3,845,000,000

So that England sinks (if such an event can be called sinking) to one fifth instead of one half of the great total. In a few more years she will further sink to the second place in separate amount of indebtedness, and the first place be taken by France."

A MINISTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH.—We understand that the Sanitary Commission has reported in favour of the appointment of a Minister of Public Health. If this recommendation, as appears probable, should be acted upon by the Government, the changes rendered necessary by the appointment of a Ministry of Health will probably involve the abolishment of the Local Government Act Office.—*Observer*.

THE NATIONAL GALLERY.—We hear that Sir Robert Peel has sold to the nation a valuable collection of pictures, works of the old masters, comprising the finest Hobbema in existence, as well as the "Chapeau de Paille," and a number of other chefs-d'œuvre. The Government have become purchasers at a price of some £70,000—a figure which does credit to Sir Robert Peel's liberality, for he could have commanded far more money at Christie's. The purchase will not disturb Mr. Lowe's Budget, as the trustees of the National Gallery have £9000 in hand from last year, and this, with their annual subsidy of £10,000 a year, will enable them easily to make all necessary arrangements.—*Morning Post*.

SKETCHES OF THE WAR.

THE GERMANS IN ORLEANS.

IN our Number for Feb. 4 we published an Engraving showing the retreat of the French army through Orleans; and we now lay before our readers a companion sketch representing the entry of the victorious Germans into the same city. This event took place in December, when the weather was most inclement—snow falling heavily, which, though it did not encumber the roadway, loaded the roofs of the houses and covered the clothes of the troops. These stout soldiers, however, marched steadily on, through a line of spectators who looked on with no friendly eye. From Orleans the Germans passed on to Le Mans, where the final overthrow of Chanzy's army occurred soon afterwards. They are nearly all gone now, however, those blue-coated invaders; and life in Orleans has once more resumed its ordinary course.

THE MARKET-PLACE AT ST. DENIS AFTER THE ARMISTICE.

The sketch from which our Illustration of the market-place at St. Denis is made was taken at the time when the armistice was first concluded, and when supplies of provisions were allowed to enter this suburb of the beleaguered city. Some idea of the straits to which the people were reduced may be gathered from the scene depicted by our Artist. A perfect rush took place upon the vendors of eatables; and happy was the person—young, old, or middle-aged—who managed to secure a supply, however small. The condition of the people in St. Denis and its neighbourhood was fully described in our Number for Feb. 25, page 125, and to that account we beg to refer.

THE GERMANS IN PARIS.

While the Germans remained in Paris there was not, as already reported, any serious disturbances, but on several occasions matters verged very near to a breach of the peace, and several persons were severely mobbed because they had been seen speaking to German soldiers. Among these unfortunates was the correspondent of the *Daily News*, who thus describes the treatment he received:—"I have striven exceedingly hard to think well of Paris under this tribulation of hers. Nor have I been altogether without justification. On the 28th, when everybody was taking of revolution and anarchy, I made a perambulation of the quarters whence were reported the chief disturbances, and I came back unmolested; and, after what I had seen, with the word 'calumniation' ready on my lips. The silence and solitude of the Avenue Beauger, by which we entered Paris, seemed very pathetic. The proud beauty, I said to myself, is veiling her humiliation. The Avenue de Malakoff took the edge off the sentiment, and it vanished utterly when a little woman who kept an *auberge*, where I quenched my thirst in beer, importuned me to bring her as many Prussian customers as possible, and did not hesitate to designate them as *bons garçons*. She might have been an isolated case; but the aspect of the Champs Elysées clenched the nail. All Paris was there, as you may have seen on a day when there was a grand Imperial pageant. Ladies in dainty dresses and high-heeled boots tripped about; chevaliers of France, with the ribbons in their button-holes, gratified their curiosity at the expense of their honour. The windows were so full that I imagine some of them must have been let for money. But it was the conduct of what may be designated the mob that disgusted me most. Touch a German soldier they dare not. They cowered—half a hundred of the white-blooded hounds—

before a solitary uhlan strolling his horse listlessly about. But let them only catch an unfortunate civilian, and then just mark their valour. Fortunately they are too limp and vague to know how to take life adroitly, else many a murder might have been done in Paris this afternoon. Say you I speak from prejudice? My prejudice, if I have any, was fain to lie the other way. I speak from sore-boned experience. As I walked down the Champs Elysées the Crown Prince of Saxony, with his staff, rode by. His guest for many a week past, I would have eaten dirt had I not raised my hat to his Royal Highness. He returned my salute, and, beckoning to me, shook hands, and a short conversation ensued. After I had taken my leave, Count Urzheim, his aide-de-camp, rode after me to communicate from the Prince a piece of information which he was kind enough to think would be of interest to me. My companion and myself soon found that this episode had gained us the marked attention of about a hundred of the hungry prowlers after heroic seizures on which no risk was

attendant. We thought little of the demonstration at first, and tried to lose our suite by turning back in the rear of the Bavarians, and halting there; but our unconcern seemed but to aggravate the patriots. After much consultation a little party came forward and civilly requested us to accompany them to a certain post. Although apprehensive of the consequences, we were unwilling to appeal to the Bavarian officers, and so be the possible means of precipitating a fracas; we therefore complied. No sooner were we outside the German quarter than the tactics were changed. My friend was torn away from me, and as yet I have seen no more of him. Cries of 'Mouchard!' 'Sacré Prussien!' 'Cochon!' assailed me. Somebody hit me over the head with a stick; another kicked me from behind; yet another tripped me up. I went down, and the patriots jumped on me with sabots. I struggled up, and hitting out right and left, made my way to an officer of the National Guard. He laughed and turned away. Then they got me down again,

striking each other in their eagerness to have a blow at me. Some clamoured 'To the Seine with him!' but others, the majority, were for the police station. Thither accordingly I was conducted in a novel fashion, on my back and dragged by the legs, a distance of some 300 yards. Needless to say that my coat was in ribbons, my head was cut, my back bumped into bruises, my legs torn nearly out of the sockets. Great Powers! how I longed, as they dragged me along, for a single section of the old Royal Dragoons, so that I might have a chance at but three of the cowards at a time! Chucked inside the police station like a bale of goods, I was conveyed by a back door—and in the pleasing companionship of a drunken woman, a blouse who had stolen a lump of putty, and a tatterdemalion who had been selling a couple of cigars to a German—to a certain prefect, a venerable gentleman in a white tie. I sent a note to the British Embassy, whence emanated, with creditable alacrity, the porter, an official whom I have learnt to look upon as the British Embassy



THE LATE WAR: GERMAN SOLDIERS PASSING THROUGH ORLEANS.

incarnate. The benevolent prefect released me, and I was glad to sink home in my soiled and tattered clothes."

Another correspondent, writing on Thursday night, March 2, says:—"The French kept guard very strictly along the German lines—and all along the lines the French and the German soldiers stood side by side—very silent towards each other. The Germans rubbed their noses very inquisitively against the gates of the Tuileries, looking in at the French sentinels who kept guard behind them. But within their district, although they were beset with abundance of sightseers, they found little companionship from the French. The shops in the district were nearly all closed, and only one restaurant was noted as open—the Café Marignan—which will hereafter be avoided by all patriotic Frenchmen. The Moulin Rouge, which is famous in this quarter of the town for its little dinners—especially for its repasts in the open air—had its gates strictly closed. There were a good many petty riots going on all yesterday—none of importance. In the Avenue de la Grande Armée there was a German officer, in a carriage, with a map in his hand. A woman, very respectably dressed, darted up to him and snatched the map away. Of course, a soldier jumped out of the carriage, and tried to get back the map. Then several workmen ran up to protect the woman, and the German soldier was beginning to receive blows and kicks from all sides, when

a cavalry charge was ordered. The woman was the first victim, as a large horse knocked her over. She picked herself up again, but was a second time upset. Several other persons were also tumbled over, but no real harm was done. In the avenue I saw a more regrettable incident. Some German soldiers asked their way from a young gentleman, who naturally replied with courtesy, and gave the required information. A few blouses were watching, and when the soldiers were at a safe distance they sprang on the unfortunate individual who had been so good-humoured as to answer the German inquiries. He was assailed with blows and knocked down. When he was on the ground a ruffian in a blue blouse deliberately leapt upon his body and trampled on him. It was a miracle that the poor fellow escaped with his life; and all the more so, as those of the people who were inclined to peace were afraid to interfere lest they should create a riot, and only make matters worse. The march was hardly over when some soldiers, who had already found their lodging and disposed of their knapsacks, went quietly forth to stroll among the people with only their small swords by their sides. Round the Cirque de l'Impératrice, in the Champs Elysées, where a number of them lodged, they immediately proceeded to make their soup with the celebrated pea and bacon sausage. For the purpose

of a fire they broke into splinters some boarding they found inside the circus and an odd chair or two. The small destruction, instead of producing any indignation, was considered good sport by the gamins, whose fingers tingled to lend help. The soldiers on several occasions expressed their desire to buy some brandy or beer, but no café, no shop, no stall was opened. The women who early in the day carried bottles of brandy in baskets to sell 'a drop' to people in the street had all disappeared when the bulk of the German force had entered. And, though near acquaintance with these Germans has tended much to tone down the feeling of aversion with which they were regarded, it is doubtful if even for the sake of gain the women will dare to trade with the enemy in brandy or in any other articles of commerce. The men keep a strict watch on them, and they run the risk of having the clothes torn off their backs, and of being either whipped or ducked in the Seine."

THE GERMANS IN AMIENS.

As at Orleans, the Germans have entered Amiens more than once. They retreated when Faidherbe gained his first success in the neighbourhood, but again returned after disposing of that General's army, shortly before the cessation of hostilities occurred. It is this second and final entry that is depicted in our Engraving.

THE SIEGE OF PARIS: THE MARKET-PLACE AT ST. DENIS AFTER THE ARMISTICE WAS CONCLUDED.



INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 393.

THE WESTMEATH DEBATE.

ON Thursday, March 3, there was excitement at the Tory clubs, and a good deal of animation in the House. The subject under discussion was the motion made by Lord Hartington on a former night to appoint a secret committee to inquire into the state of Westmeath. The debate could not be finished in one night, and on Thursday it was renewed. At the Tory clubs it was rumoured that a defeat of the Government was on the cards, hence the excitement there. The adjourned debate was opened by Colonel Wilson-Patten, a very excellent man, and of high repute in the House as a good man of business, but by no means an exciting speaker; on the contrary, he is wandering, inconsequential, weak. It was not his speech, then, that caused animation; neither was it the speech of Mr. Gladstone, who, to the surprise of the House, rose when the gallant Colonel sat down. It is the custom of the leader of the House to reserve his fire until the debate is about to close. Why he rose to speak so early nobody knew. The Prime Minister spoke with some life at first, whilst he was replying to certain frantic expressions used by Mr. Disraeli on a former night, and then cooled down and delivered a calm, argumentative speech. Mr. Chaplin followed the Prime Minister. He can speak well. His first speech in the House was a great success. The matter of it was sensible, the language terse and refined, the delivery of the speech graceful. Mr. Chaplin got great credit for that speech, and the Conservatives were delighted to have, as they thought they had, a really effective debater in their ranks. But, though Mr. Chaplin has spoken several times since, he has never risen to the high level of his maiden speech, and probably never will rise again to that height. He determined then to show what he could do if he would; but he has no ambition, evidently, to become a Parliamentary power. He would rather win the Derby, one would say. Hitherto the debate had not been exciting—scarcely, indeed, animated.

SIR ROBERT PEEL ATTACKS THE GOVERNMENT.

But now Sir Robert Peel rises, and at once the House becomes silent and expectant. "What, then, is Sir Robert a very powerful speaker?" our readers may say; "we have never thought his speeches were anything particularly effective." Nor are they. Permanently effective they never are. If they produce any effect at all, it is transient, evanescent—like impressions made upon indiarubber or any other elastic substance. But the House likes to hear him speak. He is of imposing form; has a strong, rich voice; and a taking manner, if he could but regulate it with discretion and skill. But all these advantages, though they would prepossess the House in his favour, would not alone enable him to hold its attention; and yet the House always does listen to him. How is this? Well, the cause is not far to seek. He is not a dull, commonplace speaker; he says daring, and at times audacious, things, approaching to rudeness. Indeed, sometimes he steps over the line in this direction, and has to be called to order. Again, it must be acknowledged that, in his rollicking way, he blurs out unpalatable things—i.e., things unpalatable to the ruling powers—which other members think, but which he only has the courage to say. Then the right hon. Baronet certainly has humour and wit. Humour and wit of the Irish sort. Is there any Irish blood in the family of the Peels? It has been thought that there must be—though Burke gives no hint of it that we can discover—and that the Irish characteristics have cropped out in Sir Robert, and in him alone of all his family, except there be something of them, as we have sometimes thought, in the old General, Sir Robert's uncle. Sir Robert's sparkling, restless eyes surely have gleams of Irish fun in them. His rollicking, frolicsome ways, too, one would say, indicate Hibernian descent; and then, lastly, he is illogical. The facts from which he reasons are rarely trustworthy, and his logic is generally very loose and incoherent. Another circumstance now makes the House listen to Sir Robert with special attention. Though he is a Liberal, and sits below the gangway, he is in opposition, and never rises now but to attempt to damage the Government. This, of course, is charming to the Conservative party. It is pleasant at all times to hear the Government policy censured; but to see it vigorously attacked from the Ministerial flank by a Liberal is very delightful; and it excites hope. Gladstone has one hundred majority, and if that remain compact there can be no hope for Conservatism. But what if there should be mutiny in the camp? What if the Franch-Tireurs below the gangway should turn against their commanders? What then? "Why," as a Conservative said to us, "then the Whigs and Conservatives must coalesce to keep down these Radical fellows, and save the nation." Sir Robert's speech was like all his speeches—dashing, reckless; with here and there a palpable hit at the Government, and a few humorous turns, which made the House laugh, especially the Conservative part of it. But it produced no permanent impression. Moreover, the speaker manifestly laid himself open to retort, probably from that bearded gentleman with the broad face and twinkling eyes—to wit, Mr. Serjeant Dowse—who, as he sits on the Treasury Bench, is busily taking notes. *Cave canem* (beware of the dog), Sir Robert, for he has his eyes upon you, and, if opportunity should occur, will give you a worrying. Our readers may, and probably will, wonder why Sir Robert, a Liberal, should be so continually attacking the Government. It must be strange to outsiders, but to the experienced not so strange. Members who wish to get into a Ministry adopt one of two lines of policy. Some zealously defend the Government, with the hope of reward; others criticise its policy, with a view to being bought off. Which of these two plans is the best we believe is an open question. But those who have held office, and have been passed by and kept out in the cold, with no hope, almost always become the Ministers' most bitter censors. Hope is a powerful inspiration, but wounded self-love is far more so.

BERNAL OSBORNE SUPPORTS SIR ROBERT.

When Sir Robert sat down the House dwindled away, and nothing happened worthy of record or comment until the members had returned from dinner; and then Ralph Bernal Osborne rose. Sir Robert and Mr. Bernal Osborne seem to have formed a league, this Session, offensive and defensive. They sit side by side and evidently "collogue" together. And this is but natural; it is a manifestation of the power of elective affinity. They have the same sorrows; they are influenced by the same motives. They are both disappointed politicians, both disconsolate peris looking into a paradise in which they once walked, but into which they suspect they shall never enter again; and both are very angry with the guardian angel who excludes them. Pity, this! They ought to be more magnanimous. But magnanimity is, we are sorry to say, a rare quality in the House of Commons; nor is that lofty pride, akin to magnanimity, which impels a man when disappointed and mortified to conceal his wounded feelings—in short, to burn his own smoke—more common. Mr. Osborne's speech was, *suo more*, after his own manner, which we have often described, and therefore need not describe again.

MR. SERJEANT DOWSE TO THE RESCUE.

But who is up now, that the House seems so anxious to hear? It is Serjeant Dowse. We said, "Beware of the dog!" and, by Jove, he has slipped his chain, and is on to them; and be sure he will give them a worrying, these two, Sir Robert and Bernal; for, as we have seen, he has long been hanging on the slip, and impatient of delay; and he, of all men in the House, is the man to do it. Sir Robert may have Irish blood in his veins. Mr. Osborne, though he is an Irish member, and has Irish property, is not Irish. But here is a true Hibernian, Irish thoroughbred; and, for rollicking eloquence, ready wit, humour, and chaffing power, who can compete with your true Milesian? Moreover, Mr. Serjeant Dowse, in addition to his natural powers, is a practised rhetorical pugilist, and knows well how, in the slang of the ring, to use his "mauleys" with skill. To describe the scene in the House whilst Mr. Serjeant Dowse was punishing "this pair of patriotic gentle-

men," as the witty Serjeant called his opponents, is impossible to a feeble pen like ours. The humorous face of the speaker, his voluble eloquence, his sharp, witty retorts upon his opponents—how he chaffed them about their desire for office; taunted the member for Waterford as an Irishman *pro re nata* (for a special purpose, or, literally, born so for this affair only), who had gone to Dover, and, finding no rest for the sole of his foot, like the dove, *though in no other respect resembling her*, at length found a resting-place at Waterford—and all in rich Milesian brogue; and how the House was convulsed with laughter, whilst Mr. Bernal Osborne looked grim and solemn, and Sir Robert restless and angry, must be left to the imagination of our readers, for it is, as we have hinted, a scene which cannot be described. The sum of it all is, these two gentlemen had met with their match—foiled with their own weapons, and chaffed out of the field; and depend upon it, readers, that in future they will "beware of the dog," and not wilfully rouse him again.

THE DIVISIONS.

The divisions on this matter showed that the "prophets" at the Conservative Club were all abroad. Mr. Serjeant Sherlock had moved the previous question—i.e., "that the motion for a Committee shall not be put"—wishing in this side way to get rid of the question altogether—or, as it is common now to say, to shunt it. But by a majority of 398 to 26 the House decided that the motion should be put; and so it was put, and carried by 256 to 175: majority, 81. The Conservative Club gossips calculated that, as all the Irish Liberals would vote against the Committee, Government would be beaten; but they did not know that at least fifty Conservatives would walk out of the House. Mr. Disraeli, notwithstanding his furious speech against the Committee, did not vote. "How was this?" Well, as ex-Prime Minister and Prime Minister *in posse*, when the time came, he could not refuse to grant to her Majesty's Ministers the powers which they required to put down lawlessness. Besides, he himself, in 1852, had obtained precisely such a Committee. And this reminds us of a really witty retort made by Mr. Serjeant Dowse upon the right honourable gentleman. When Mr. Disraeli was reminded that in 1852 he got such a Committee, he exclaimed, amidst much Conservative cheering, "Yes; but I had not a majority of over a hundred at my back. If I had been as strong as the right honourable gentleman (Mr. Gladstone) I would not have asked for that Committee." To which Mr. Dowse, in answer, compared Mr. Disraeli to the lean apothecary in "Romeo and Juliet," who, when applied to for poison, said, "My poverty, but not my will, consents."

COLONEL LOYD-LINDSAY AND ARMY PURCHASE.

Monday night was what we call a "great night." It was a great subject which was under consideration—to wit, "Army reconstruction." There was a great attendance of members and of strangers, and a great deal of talk; but otherwise nothing occurred to justify the epithet "great." The debate was long, slow, and dreary. It lasted from five p.m. until the hand of the clock pointed "ayont the twal;" and not for a minute, as far as we know, was it ever lifted above what we may call a dead-level of commonplace. Colonel Lloyd-Lindsay began it. All honour to the gallant Colonel; not, though, for his speech that night, which, though fluent and easy, was scarcely eloquent; but for what Carlyle would call "his eloquent deeds" during the vacation. The gallant Colonel is rich, exceedingly rich. He married the only daughter of Lord Overstone, the princely banker, once so famous in the City as Samuel Jones Lloyd. Riches oftentimes tempt to idle, luxurious ease; but the gallant Colonel, to relieve the sufferings of his fellow-men, scorned delights, and lived laborious days; and therefore all honour to him. The gallant Colonel is tall, good-looking, and speaks with gentlemanly ease, and had much to say in favour of the army purchase system, which he defended. But though he gained attention, he evoked, except from colonels and captains, and other military, militia, or volunteer people, little approbation. It is a bad case, most gallant Colonel, and if

Your tongue
Dropt manna, and could make the worse appear
The better reason, to perplex and dash
Mature counsels,

you would not be able to save a system which, however good it may appear to rich Lloyd-Lindsays, we all know was to poor Napiers and Havelocks gallingly cruel and unjust.

A BATCH OF NEW MEMBERS.

Several new members tried their wings that night, but with no brilliant success. If they did not fail, and drop like broken-winged fowls, they did not soar. There was Major Arbutnot, who came into the House only last week as member for Hereford, a gentleman of such boyish appearance that one wondered how one so young can be a Major. The young gentleman has, though, one essential quality of a soldier—to wit, courage, for he stood up before a full House unabashed as a veteran, and what he had to say he said with enviable ease. It must be confessed, however, that what he had to say was scarcely worth the saying. The Hon. Captain Talbot also made his debut in this debate. This gentleman is the fourth son of the Earl of Shrewsbury. He is only thirty years old, and yet he is a Captain in the Life Guards. He delivered, his friends said, a "stunning speech." Part of this speech we heard, and were not stunned. Mr. Davison, Q.C., Judge Advocate-General, also spoke for the first time. This gentleman has been in the House two years, and, wonder of wonders—albeit, a lawyer—has been silent all that time, and has won a place worth £2000 a year. The *Daily News* tells us that the learned gentleman spoke with ease and confidence. The truth is, he was nervous as bride going to church. Nevertheless, although he was hurried, if not flurried, he passed through the ordeal with credit.

A NATIONALIST.

Mr. John Martin, Nationalist member for Westmeath, has recanted his vow not to appear in the House of Commons. On Wednesday he walked up to the table, and was sworn. He is of singular appearance, short of stature, somewhat round shouldered, with heavy brow and thin cadaverous countenance, like Browning's German Philosopher. Under that simple, quiet exterior there may be dangerous volcanic fires, but there are no outward and visible signs of them. The hon. gentleman, we are told, is not a Catholic, but a Presbyterian.

THE VOLUNTEER EASTER MONDAY REVIEW.—A meeting of metropolitan volunteer commanding officers was held, last Saturday afternoon, at the offices of the National Rifle Association, Pall-mall. Lord Elcho presided, and the Brighton Review Committee submitted their report, approving of the Ovingdean Valley site for the Easter Monday review, and it was received and unanimously adopted. A report from Lord Elcho, complaining of the charges demanded of his quartermaster for lodging accommodation, was brought before the meeting; and it was thereupon resolved that Colonel Wilkinson and Colonel Cochrane be requested to confer with the local review committee, and obtain from them lists of hotels and lodgings in which fair prices are asked, such lists to be posted at the offices of the National Rifle Association, and published in the *Volunteer Service Gazette*.

LORD LYONS'S DEPARTURE FROM PARIS.—Official correspondence respecting the departure of Lord Lyons from Paris, and the provision made for the withdrawal of British subjects there, has been laid before Parliament. In the last of the despatches Lord Lyons, under date of Feb. 26, says:—"I conceived that, by stationing Mr. Wodehouse and General Claremont, the military attaché, at Paris, I made the best provision in my power for the protection of the British subjects who remained there. I left with Mr. Wodehouse orders to come away from Paris himself if the place should be threatened with immediate bombardment; and in that case to do his utmost to obtain a safe passage out for all British subjects. I considered that, in such a contingency, the protection of any of our countrymen who might still remain could not be transferred to better hands than those of General Claremont, who, from his intimacy with General Trochu, and his large acquaintance among French military men, and well-known influence with them, would have peculiar means of befriending and assisting British subjects if actual danger from military operations should be imminent."

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, MARCH 3.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The Table of Lessons Bill was introduced by the Lord Chancellor, and read the first time.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

A discussion was raised by Mr. R. FOWLER on the affairs of South Africa and the relations subsisting between our colonies and the Transvaal and Orange River Free States; but the hon. member did not press his motion, asserting the desirability of establishing a South African confederation.

Sir R. PEEL once more called attention to the circumstances under which Lord Lyons quitted Paris on Sept. 17, and, quoting largely from the published correspondence on the subject, repeated his former charge, that the "flight" of the noble Lord was "unmanly and ungenerous." Lord Lyons, however, was ably defended by Mr. B. Cochrane, Mr. J. Goldsmid, Lord Enfield, Mr. W. Lowther, and by the Premier himself, who, acquitting the noble Lord of all blame, took to the Government the whole responsibility for what had been done.

MONDAY, MARCH 6.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

OUR FOREIGN RELATIONS.

The Marquis of SALISBURY called attention to the extent of our foreign guarantees and to the deficiency of our military forces. Reminding their Lordships that we had guaranteed the independence of Portugal, Belgium, Switzerland, Greece, Turkey, and Sweden, he maintained that, practically, the frontiers of the guaranteed countries became our own, and therefore we could not rely entirely upon our navy or upon the "little streak of silver sea," but must either maintain a military force which would be adequate to enable us to fulfil our obligations or must modify or abandon them. All foreign Governments were acquainted with the weakness of our military system, and hence arose the impotence of our words in the councils of Europe; and it was absolutely necessary that the Government should either abandon a system of "permanent braggadocio" or adapt their military forces to their promises.

Earl GRANVILLE characterised the speech of the noble Marquis as so full of exaggerations as to render it useless for any national object. Fastening upon a quotation which he had made from the non-official part of the *Versailles Monitor*, to show that England has now no influence in Europe, he informed their Lordships that the German Foreign Minister had expressed his regret that such a statement should have appeared, and maintained that the fact of the Conference upon the Black Sea question being sitting in London, and the appeals which had been addressed to us by both belligerents during the war, showed that they did not think we were so feeble or helpless as the noble Lord asserted. The noble Earl entirely declined to lay down any general principles as to our obligations under the guarantees which we have given, but utterly denied that we were unable to fulfil them; and, while congratulating himself and the Government upon having kept the country out of war during the past year, repudiated any intention to adopt a system of braggadocio, either permanent or temporary.

The Earl of MALMESBURY agreed with Lord Salisbury that we were not prepared to fulfil our engagements; and, at the same time, called their Lordships' attention to the fact that public morality in Europe had sunk to so low an ebb that might was rapidly becoming right.

Lord Salisbury's motion for the reprinting of the guarantees, to which Lord Granville had made no objection, was agreed to.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE ARMY REGULATION BILL.

Mr. CARDWELL, having moved the second reading of the Army Regulation Bill,

Colonel LOYD-LINDSAY asked the House to declare that the expenditure necessary for the national defence and other demands on the Exchequer does not at present justify any vote of public money for the extinction of purchase in the Army. The gallant Colonel referred in detail to many matters connected with our military system not exactly included within the terms of his motion, and maintained that all that was wanted in the British Army was reorganisation, while the abolition of purchase would impose a heavy burden upon the taxpayers, would deteriorate the character of our officers, and would destroy our regimental system.

Colonel L. WHITE, who seconded the resolution, recommended not compulsory service but compulsory drill of all the youth of the country as a more advisable measure of army reform than "troting after the skirts" of Mr. Trevelyan, and devoting the public money to "the furtherance of a family mania."

Mr. DAVISON, the new Judge Advocate-General, pointed out the evils and mischiefs of the purchase system. The abolition of purchase, he asserted, would not in any way interfere with our regimental system; and without the adoption of such a measure it was utterly impossible to reorganise the Army.

Colonel G. LINDSAY maintained that purchase was a private arrangement, and declared that the money paid for its abolition would be a dead loss to the taxpayers.

Sir G. GREY expressed a confident opinion that it was impossible for the Government to attempt to bring the regular Army into union with the auxiliary forces without proposing such a measure as this. In the absence of purchase, however, it would be impossible to resort to a system of seniority, and we must have recourse to selection and compulsory retirement.

Cap. Sir STANLEY expressed himself as, in the abstract, a supporter of the abolition of the purchase system, but criticised the details of the Government measure, and expressed his disapproval of many of its most important provisions.

Mr. H. R. BRAND admitted that the system of purchase facilitated promotion; but, comparing its evils with its advantages, came to the conclusion that its maintenance was inexpedient, and that the best course would be for Parliament and the nation to make up their mind at once to the sacrifice necessary for its abolition.

After several other hon. members had spoken, the debate, on the motion of Lord Elcho, was adjourned till Thursday.

TUESDAY, MARCH 7.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The House read the third time and passed the Pauper Inmates Discharge and Regulation Bill, and subsequently a discussion arose on the manner in which the War Office had interfered with the functions of the Lord Lieutenant of Cornwall by appointing a nominee of its own to the command of the county militia.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Mr. GLADSTONE informed Mr. Disraeli that the Government were not aware that a treaty was negotiated last year between Prussia and Russia referring to the Franco-Prussian war, and that consequently they were not in possession of such information when they instructed Mr. Otto Russell to repair to Versailles and consult Count Bismarck on the Black Sea question.

After some discussion on the position of holders of leases under the Dean and Chapter of Durham, a debate took place on the subject of the patent laws, which ended in the adoption of a motion, proposed by Mr. Samuelson, for the appointment of a Committee of Inquiry; and in leave being given to Mr. Hinde Palmer to introduce a bill for the amendment of the law relating to patents for inventions.

The House then proceeded to consider a motion of Mr. CANDLISH in favour of making early provision in the Estimates for reducing the National Debt; which was ultimately withdrawn, the mover declaring himself satisfied with the expression of opinion elicited in the course of the debate.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

A new writ was ordered for the election of a member for Halifax, to supply the vacancy created by Mr. Stansfeld's appointment to the Presidency of the Poor-law Board. Mr. Loch's bill for the amendment of the Scotch Game Laws was debated at some length, and ultimately rejected, on a division, by 154 to 85; and Mr. Wheelhouse's bill for the education of the blind, deaf, and dumb, shared a like fate at the same stage, without a division. Subsequently the House went into Committee on the Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister Bill; but no progress was made, the bill being once more "talked out." The Workshop Regulation Act (1867) Amendment Bill was read the second time, and the sitting terminated with Mr. John Martin, the famous Irish repealer, appearing and taking his seat for the county of Meath.

THURSDAY, MARCH 9.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

IRELAND.

Lord DUFFERIN, in reply to the Marquis of Clanricarde, intimated that the Government intended, in the course of the Session, to introduce five measures for the benefit of Ireland—relating to the abolition of imprisonment for debt, bankruptcy, matrimonial causes, execution of decrees in the county courts, and juries.

PRUSSIA AND RUSSIA.

The Earl of CARNARVON having called attention to a statement in the *Morning Post* of that day respecting the existence of a treaty or engagement between Prussia and Russia since the beginning of the recent war, pointedly referred to the reply given in the House of Commons by Mr. Gladstone to Mr. Disraeli on the subject, and asked Earl Granville if he had received any information on the matter.

The FOREIGN MINISTER echoed the answer given by Mr. Gladstone to a similar question, that the Government had received no information whatever on the subject.

PENAL CONVICTS.

A long, prosy, uninteresting debate respecting the recent liberation of the penal convicts by the Government, originated in a motion by Earl Grey for certain returns on the subject, and extending into an enlarged discussion on the state of Ireland generally, and the disturbed condition of the county of Westmeath and the adjoining parts in particular.

Lord DUFFERIN defended the conduct of the Government.

Lord CAIRNS, in a speech of considerable length, severely assailed the Ministry.

The Earl of DERRY said the disturbances in Ireland arose from a desire for separation from this country, and the only way to quiet the Irish people was to convince them that such a thing was absolutely impossible.

After a few words from the Lord Chancellor, the Duke of Somerset, the Duke of Richmond, Earl Kimberley, and Lord Strathnairn, the motion was agreed to.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

RINDERPEST.

Mr. W. E. FORSTER, replying to Mr. McLagan, detailed the measures that had been taken to prevent the introduction of rinderpest into this country; and stated that the Government would take steps to prevent the importation of cattle from France and Belgium. These precautions were not necessary in the case of cattle coming from Germany, as the disease was being rapidly stamped out there.

THE ARMY ORGANISATION BILL.

The discussion on Colonel Lloyd-Lindsay's amendment condemnatory of the proposed abolition of the purchase system was resumed by Lord ELCHINGHAM, who said the question formed a very large part of the Government bill, although it was but a small part of the whole question. That question was nothing less than the safety of England. The question of our foreign policy lay at the very base of the question of our armaments. The real feeling of England with regard to our foreign policy he believed to be that they hated war and desired peace, but that they believed occasion might arise when the safety of this country or the conditions of treaty might oblige us to take part in foreign war. Looking to our foreign policy, our home, colonial, and Indian policy, we wanted an army which would be expansive.

The debate was continued during the remainder of the night.

THE EXCHEQUER RECEIPTS from April 1 to the 4th inst. amounted to £62,184,104; the Budget Estimate for the financial year being £67,634,000. The expenditure has amounted to £62,096,590. The balance in the Bank of England on Saturday last exceeded £6,000,000.

THE FRENCH CESSIONS OF TERRITORY.—The *Journal des Débats* thus sums up the territorial losses sustained by France in consequence of the recent arrangements for peace:—"France loses more than three fourths of the department of the Meuse, one third of the department of the Meurthe, a canton and a half of the Vosges, all the department of the Haut Rhin except a canton and a half, and the entire department of the Bas Rhin. These territories contain in round figures 1,610,000 inhabitants, furnishing an annual military contingent of 5000 men, and represent a superficial extent of 1,776,000 hectares."

DR. LIVINGSTONE.—The arrival of the Portuguese gun-boat *Anna Maria*, Captain Groblan, in Table Bay, on Jan. 21, from Zanzibar and the Mozambique, for Lisbon, disproves the story that was set afloat at Cape Town, and from there came to Europe, that Dr. Kirk had received a letter from Dr. Livingstone, and expected his arrival daily at Zanzibar. Dr. Kirk had not received any such letter, but it was believed that Dr. Livingstone was still alive. The officers of the gun-boat state that when they left several reports about Dr. Livingstone were in circulation, but no reliance could be placed in any of them.

MERCHANT SEAMEN'S PENSIONS.—The Greenwich Hospital Act of 1869 provided for the payment of a limited number of pensions to merchant seamen, and a return with the above heading shows the first results. By this it appears that since the Act became law the total annual amount of pensions granted has been £3997. A very large number of applications for pensions were made, one of the applicants having been at sea since 1785, and paid to the funds of Greenwich Hospital for fifty years. This return is furnished by the Board of Trade, and was moved for by Mr. Charles Magnus.

THE LONDON SCHOOL BOARD.—The London School Board, on Wednesday, resumed the discussion upon the motion of Mr. W. H. Smith, M.P., providing that the Bible should be read and instruction in religious subjects given in the schools established by the board. After the delivery of several speeches, the resolution was carried in an amended form. The material parts of the modified motion are the following:—"That in the schools provided by the board the Bible shall be read, and there shall be given therefrom such explanations and such instruction in the principles of religion and morality as are suitable to the capacities of the children; provided always that in such explanations and instruction the provisions of the Act in sections 7 and 14 be strictly observed, both in letter and spirit, and that no attempt be made in any such schools to attach children to any particular denomination."

RUGBY SCHOOL.—"A College Fellow at Cambridge" writes:—"Affairs at Rugby School seem to be in a critical state. The Head Master recently gave notice of dismissal to two of the assistant masters; of these, only one, Mr. Scott, had, by the constitution of the school, a right of appeal to the trustees, of which he availed himself. When the case came to be heard, the inadequacy of Dr. Hayman's grounds of action was so patent that the trustees, notwithstanding the strong motives that they must have had for supporting the Head Master, felt themselves unable to confirm his decision; and Mr. Scott will remain a master of the school as long as he may wish." A gentleman well known at Rugby, Mr. J. A. Campbell, tells what happened to the unfortunate assistant master who had no right of appeal, not being a foundation master. He applied to be heard, but was refused a hearing, although the circumstances of his case appear to be precisely similar to Mr. Scott's, with the exception that he is not a foundation master. His dismissal, therefore, without a reason is virtually sustained. Mr. Campbell adds:—"Since Rugby School was founded, I believe there is no known instance of an assistant master having been dismissed without any assigned reason."

THE ALLEGED TREATY BETWEEN RUSSIA AND PRUSSIA.—The *New Free Press* of Vienna says that a formal alliance between Russia and Prussia was concluded at Ems as soon as the first symptoms of the war presented themselves. At first Prussia maintained four entire army corps in Silesia, which force would have co-operated with Russia in an attack upon Austria in case the latter had joined France. After Würth, when the attitude of Austria was no longer doubtful, the four army corps in Silesia were sent into France, and materially contributed to the decisive turn of the war. The *New Free Press* says the British Government knew of this treaty, as did also the Italian Government. The *Morning Post* of Thursday makes the following announcement on the subject:—"From a source in which we can place implicit confidence we learn that, at the very outbreak of the war between France and Prussia, the relations between the Governments of St. Petersburg and Berlin took the definite form of a secret treaty, consisting of three articles. The first article provided for the armed intervention of Russia in the event of the successes of the French arms menacing the tranquillity of Poland. The second article provided that in the event of Austria making any military demonstrations of a character threatening to Prussia, demonstrations of a similar nature should immediately be made on the part of Russia by the presence of a Russian corps d'armes on the Austrian frontier, with the view of at once checking or controlling the Austrian military action. The third article stipulated that, in the event of any other European Power joining France as an ally, Russia should at once, as the open ally of Prussia, declare war against France."

GENERAL FOURBAKI.—A letter addressed from Switzerland to the *Anglo-Saxon Gazette* gives some details hitherto unpublished respecting General Fourbaki's attempt to commit suicide. It appears that after the receipt of some despatches from the Government of Bordeaux the General was already in such a state of mind that his aides-de-camp constantly endeavored to put his arms out of his reach, when, on Jan. 27, on receiving a letter from M. Gambetta, he exclaimed, "They forget at Bordeaux that in this army of 80,000 men there are but 35,000 soldiers, and the rest are good for nothing!" He then sent away the officers of his staff, under various pretexts. Of these M. de X. alone returned, after executing the General's orders, and remained in the ante-room. Fourbaki then went into the room of one of the absent officers, took a loaded pistol from it, and hid it under his pillow. He wrote several letters, in the evening, and was still busy arranging his papers when the staff physician came in. They both stood together on the hearth and conversed for a moment together. The doctor, who found the General very much agitated, advised him to take a few hours' repose. "You are right, Doctor," replied Fourbaki; "and you—will you not also go to bed?" "If you will allow me, General, I will stay here by the fire," Fourbaki went to bed, and pulled the curtains round it. The doctor heard the report of a pistol the moment after; he rose in terror and ran to the bed, throwing back the curtains. "I have, unhappily, failed to kill myself," said Fourbaki, in a calm tone. The General, leaning one arm on the edge of the bed, had placed the barrel of the pistol to his temple, but a movement made the ball deviate, which, slipping within a few inches of the head, penetrated into the coat. M. de X., who had hurried up at the sound of the report, received orders from the General to go to Bordeaux and bring Madame Fourbaki thence to Besancon. On arriving at Besancon, M. de X. learned that the General's wife had already left. He wished to return to Besancon, where he had left his arms, his horse, and baggage; but he arrived too late; the place was already invested by the Prussians.—*Full Mail Gazette*.



SATURDAY, MARCH 11, 1871.

MEANS AND ENDS.

GREAT events like those we have been witnessing on the Continent raise over again in speculative notions some of the most harassing questions that the human mind can put to itself. Two notions are frequently found struggling together in the thoughts of most men, especially in times of difficulty, or when the scales of probability appear to hang even. One notion is that the great point of all is that the means we employ for any purpose must be calculably and visibly adapted to that purpose, or else failure will be our portion. The other is that, if our cause be a good one, a hearty will, backed by unflinching faith and unflinching courage, is very likely to win the day for us.

The German victories are striking instances of the success of means carefully calculated with a view to given ends, and carefully proportioned to those ends. Even the undoubted, and indeed extraordinary, patriotism of the soldiers of Fatherland, especially of the landwehr, is thrown into the shade by other matters. When the war began, it counted for much in our thoughts. People said, "If any man can win these will, because they believe in their cause and are ready to oppose a brave front to chasseur and mitrailleuse." But, by-the-by, the sentiments which underlay the movements dictated by Von Moltke can scarcely be reckoned as a concurrent cause. All eyes were fixed on the movements of big battalions and small battalions, and we studied the war as we might a game at chess.

When Paris rose against the Empire, still more, when France, avowedly Republican, resolved to continue the war, the story entered upon a fresh chapter. People said, The heroism and endurance of a people constitute an unknown quantity, and who can say what will happen next? When sorely-ried Von der Tann, with his thinned band of almost used-up Bavarians, was driven out of Orleans, it seemed for a moment as if the tide was about to turn; and those who would have found in the victory of the French over the Germans the triumph of Republican principles were full of hope for the fortunes of the cause they had at heart. Now, it is quite possible that Bazaine did not hold out at Metz quite as long as he ought to have done, and that a few days more of breathing time for the French might have worried the Germans a good deal. But, on the whole, few will think that the fortune of the war would have been effectually and finally turned by anything that happened after the last sortie of Bazaine had failed. And what strikes us all from first to last, in looking at the progress of the German armies, is the long-headed adaptation of means to ends in directing superior force or skill at given points against inferior degrees of the same. When Trochu was reproached for his failures, and people said, "Oh! Trochu is a good man, who put down his carriage to support his nephews," cynics made answer, "Very likely. Richard III. killed his nephews; but he was a general, and he would have raised the siege of Paris." And of this kind has been most of the sober criticism upon the events of the war.

Are we, then, for good and all, to give up the notion that great effects may be produced and great disasters retrieved by means which are not visibly and calculably adapted to ends? We cannot do anything of the kind. The facts of history and daily life would forbid it. There must always be a field open for the action of unknown, incalculable, and invisible sources of power, especially in such matters as war, where each side purposely keeps as much as possible of its strength a secret from the other. There are moments in conflict when bravery is more wanted than gun or bayonet, and though the brave may mistake the time, who so likely as they to know it right? But, on the other hand, those who neglect to do the very best they can with known quantities of force, are not the persons to appeal with much chance of success to the unknown quantities. The lesson of the war is that steady adaptation of means to ends is the scientific condition of success (so to speak). But at every turn in the dark story of French disaster there was room for military genius to play an unexpected part, and, though it did not come, the field for splendid surprises of bravery and skill is not one inch narrowed by the fresh proofs we have seen of what we knew before—namely, that if we will the end, we should also will the means. When that is done, there is still left open for the action of unknown quantities a chapter of accidents sufficiently large to encourage the modest, daunt the overbold, and prove once and again that the race is not always to the swift nor the battle to the strong. This discovery Germany may yet make to her cost in her relations with her exasperated and unforgetting neighbour.

THE GLATTON, the first heavily-armoured ironclad of the monitor type for the British Navy, was undocked on Wednesday at Chatham.

ELIZA SINCLAIR, wife of a weaver at Stow, near Galashiels, cut the throats of her boy and girl, aged three and eleven years respectively, on Monday night, and afterwards severed her own windpipe. The girl died immediately, but the boy lingered until Tuesday afternoon. The woman is expected to recover. The only reason assigned for the murder is that she had been accused of stealing some articles of grocery.

THE FRENCH ASPHALTE PAVEMENT recently introduced into the City appears to be highly satisfactory. At a meeting of the Commissioners of Sewers, on Tuesday, it was resolved that the carriage-way in Moorgate-street and Finsbury-pavement should be laid with asphalt; and a deputation from Wood-street requested that that thoroughfare, which it was proposed to pave with granite, should be paved with asphalt instead.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE QUEEN, accompanied by Princess Louise, Princess Beatrice, and Prince Leopold, drove, on Monday afternoon, from Claremont to Bushey House, to visit the Duc de Nemours, the Comte and Comtesse d'Eu, and the other members of the family.

LORD REDESDALE, notwithstanding any reports which have been circulated to the contrary, is (the *Times* says) decidedly better, and going on well.

THE MARRIAGE of the Marquis of Ailsa and the Hon. Evelyn Stuart third daughter of Lord Blantyre, was solemnised, on Tuesday, at St George's Church, Halover-square, when a distinguished circle, including the Duke and Duchess of Argyll, the Marquis and Marchioness of Westminster, the Marquis of Lorne, and other relatives and friends were present.

THE SPECIAL LICENSE for the marriage of Princess Louise with the Marquis of Lorne was issued, under seal of the Faculty Office, Doctors'-commons, last Saturday. The preparations at Windsor for the ceremony are now in an advanced condition.

MR. ODO RUSSELL, after several months' stay at the Emperor-King's head-quarters at Versailles, returned to London on Wednesday evening from his diplomatic mission.

AT Bow-street, on Wednesday, a solicitor named Bickley was fined £2 and costs for assaulting Mr. A. Fell, one of the members for South Leicestershire.

MR. HENRY DENNY, the curator for forty-five years of the Leeds Philosophical and Literary Society, died on Tuesday, at the age of sixty-eight.

THE REMAINS of the LATE MRS. NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE were interred in Kensal-green Cemetery last Saturday.

MR. GOSCHEN has been appointed First Lord of the Admiralty, in succession to Mr. Childers; and Mr. Stansfeld becomes President of the Poor-Law Board, with a seat in the Cabinet. He will be succeeded as Secretary to the Treasury by Mr. Baxter. None of these changes will involve re-election.

LORD JUSTICE MELLISH will preside at the thirty-ninth anniversary dinner of the United Law Clerks' Society, on Wednesday, June 7.

MR. SCUDAMORE has declined to accede to a request made by the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce that receipts should be given for moneys paid for telegrams.

THE EMPEROR NAPOLEON, it is said, is about to take up his residence at Chiselhurst, where preparations for his reception are in progress.

THE NORTH OF ENGLAND CARPET WEAVERS have resolved to increase their men's wages by 10 per cent.

MR. THOMAS HUGHES, M.P., presided, on Tuesday night, over a meeting of the trades affected by the proposed alterations in the Book of Common Prayer, at which a resolution was adopted expressing an earnest hope for the settlement of the question by the passing of the Lectorian Bill now before the House of Lords.

SEVERAL CASES of HYDROPHOBIA having occurred at Bolton, the Mayor has ordered that all dogs shall be confined until Oct. 1 next. On Sunday and Monday nearly fifty dogs were seized by the police and killed.

THE LONDON BRANCH of the NATIONAL EDUCATION LEAGUE have unanimously pronounced against any proposal to increase the Parliamentary grants to existing denominational schools.

LORD HENRY SOMERSET, second son of the Duke of Beaufort, was on Saturday returned without opposition for the county of Monmouth, in succession to Colonel Ponlett Somerset, resigned.

THE HONOUR of KNIGHTHOOD has been conferred upon Mr. Maurice Charles O'Connell, President of the Legislative Council of Queensland.

THE ADMIRALTY AUTHORITIES have presented in the Newcastle County Court a petition in bankruptcy against the person who called herself the Countess of Derwentwater.

THE GOVERNMENT of the UNITED STATES has signed a treaty with Italy recognising the inviolability of private property at sea.

TRAMWAY COMMUNICATION between Greenwich and Peckham was opened last Saturday.

THE BOARD of TRADE RETURNS show that there was an increase in the total value of both the imports and exports of the United Kingdom in the month of February.

THE EXPLOSION of a TORPEDO at CREUZOT, France, on Sunday morning, caused the death of eight persons, and serious injury to seven others.

GEORGE BRYAN, seaman of the Sunderland ship *Royal Arch*, is in custody at Falmouth, charged with stabbing the chief mate of that ship, who lies in a very dangerous state from four knife wounds.

SEVENTEEN CLERGYMEN have availed themselves of the relief afforded by the provisions of the Clergy Disabilities Bill. Mr. Froude still remains in holy orders. Mr. Thorold Rogers is among those who have divested themselves of the clerical character.

JONATHAN BARROW, who killed a man named Benfold at Leicester lately, has been convicted of manslaughter and sentenced to fifteen years' penal servitude.

THE PASSENGER TRAFFIC between Southampton and France, which was almost totally suspended during the war, has immensely increased since the peace. Large quantities of cotton are now also being shipped at Southampton for Havre. Horses still continue to be exported to France in the Southampton steamers.

CHIEF JUSTICE WHITESIDE, in charging the grand jury at the King's County Assizes, contrasted the calendar, containing only a single case of crime, with the gloomy picture presented in the constabulary returns. He had no hesitation in saying that under such circumstances the presentation of the calendar as an indication of the criminal state of the county was a mockery.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE of INQUIRY INTO the STATE of WEST-MEATH consists of eight Liberals and seven Conservatives. Of the fifteen members, nine sit for English and six for Irish constituencies. Six voted for the appointment of the Committee, six against it, and three were absent from the division.

THE CAPE DIAMOND-FIELDS continue to attract diggers, but the heat had become so oppressive as to compel many to abandon their search for the present and take refuge on the coast.

DRS. WYATT and GORDON, who, after having brought gifts from their country for the French sick and wounded, remained in Paris, where they shared the privations and dangers of the siege, have been named officers of the Legion of Honour. Dr. Wyatt has prepared a valuable account of the treatment of wounds and sickness in the hospitals.

THE ROOF of a WOODEN CIRCUS in course of erection in the wholesale market at Bolton fell, with a loud crash, into the body of the circus last Saturday. Eight men were working below at the time; two of them were killed by the falling beams, and three others seriously injured.

IN THE CASE of the STEAM-TUG GAUNTLET, lately seized by the Crown for having towed a Prussian prize captured by a French cruiser, Sir Robert Phillimore, on Tuesday, granted an order for the release of the ship, reserving the questions of costs and damages for the hearing of the cause.

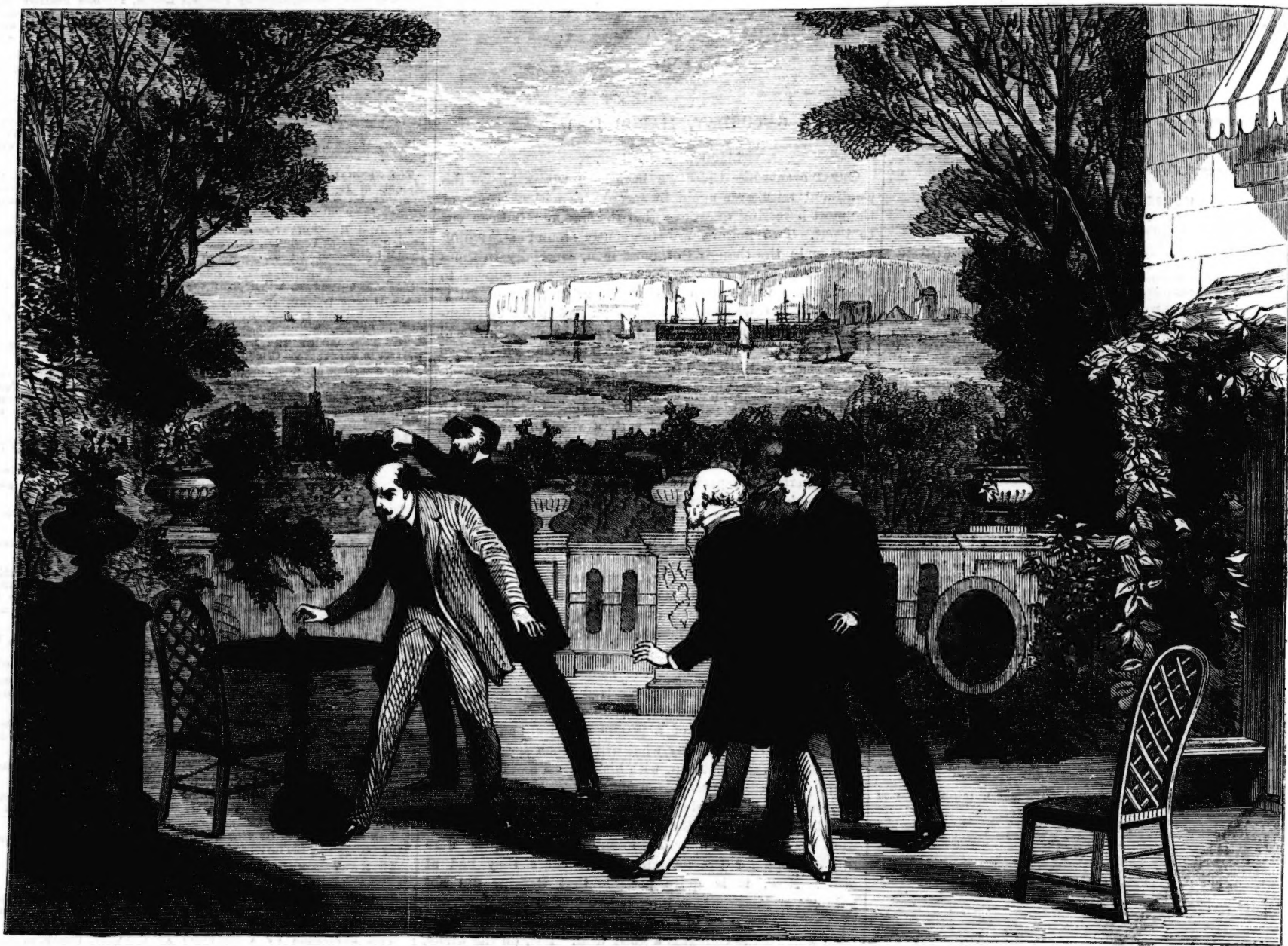
THE ANNUAL MEETING of the PRINTERS' PENSION CORPORATION was held, on Monday, at the London Tavern, Bishopsgate-street. Mr. John Coe presided. The report of the operations of the society for the past year gave a favourable account of its operations, and the financial statement showed that in all its branches the society was progressive.

THE ENTIRE PERSONNEL of the ADMIRALTY, with one exception, has been changed within the past nine months. Mr. Childers, Lord John Hay, Sir Spencer Robinson, Mr. Baxter, Mr. Trevelyan, and Mr. Reed have left Whitehall, leaving Vice-Admiral Sir Sydney Dacres as the sole representative of the Board as it was constituted when Mr. Gladstone took office.

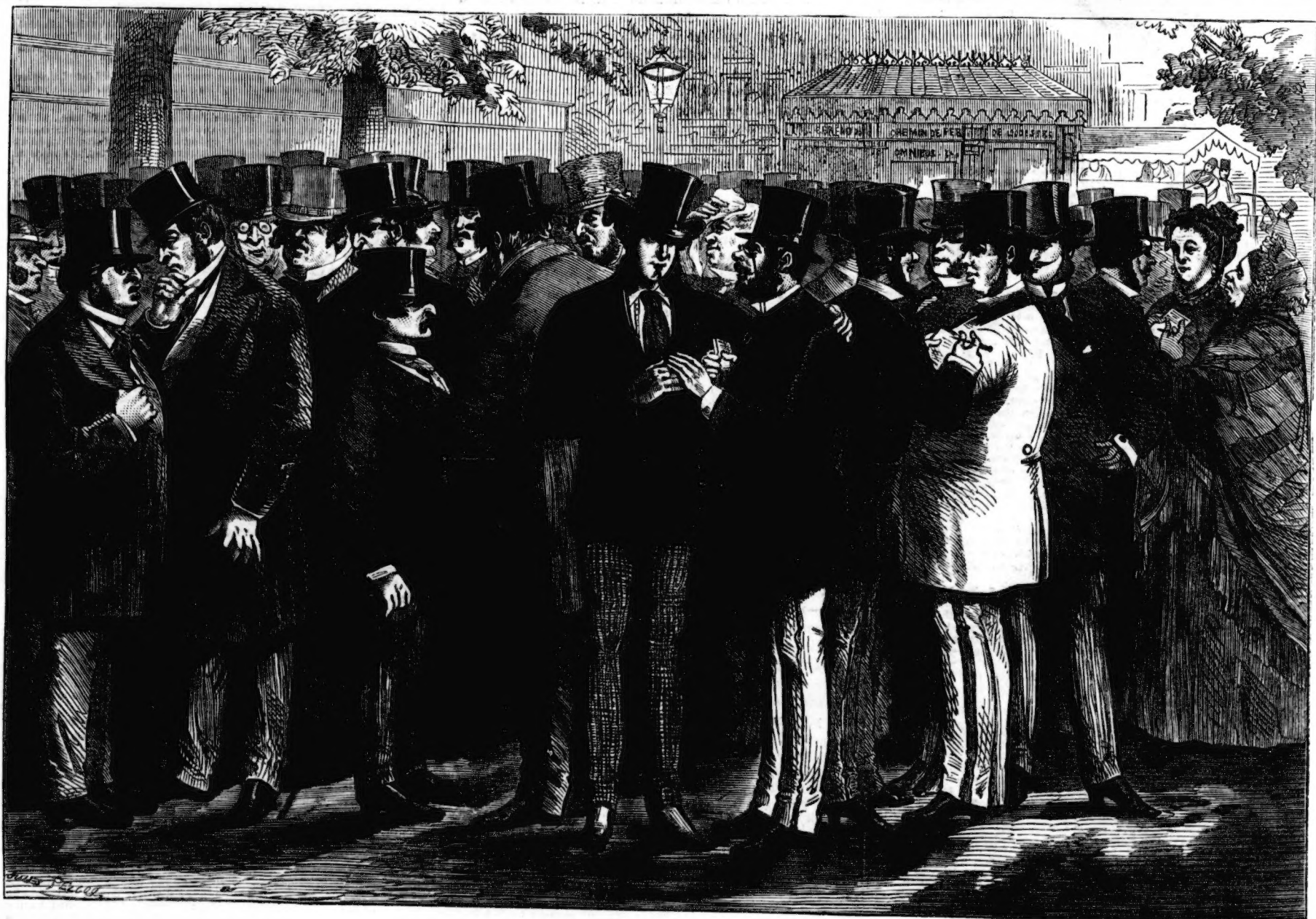
THE TRADES-UNION CONGRESS had a long sitting, on Tuesday, for the consideration of the clauses of the Government measure on the subject of trades unions. Many of its provisions, particularly those which refer to criminal acts, are strongly objected to, unless made applicable to masters as well as to workmen.

A MEETING of the MANCHESTER HOUSE FRENCH RELIEF FUND COMMITTEE was held on Tuesday—the Lord Mayor presiding. Subscriptions amounting to nearly £120,000 were reported. Lord Vernon, on behalf of the Peasant-Farmers' Seed Fund, stated that they had received £25,000; Mr. J. R. Robinson reported that up to this time the *Daily News* Fund exceeded £21,000; Mr. Bennet said that the Refugees' Benevolent Fund amounted to £8000; and Baron Gudin attended as the representative of a fund of £3000.

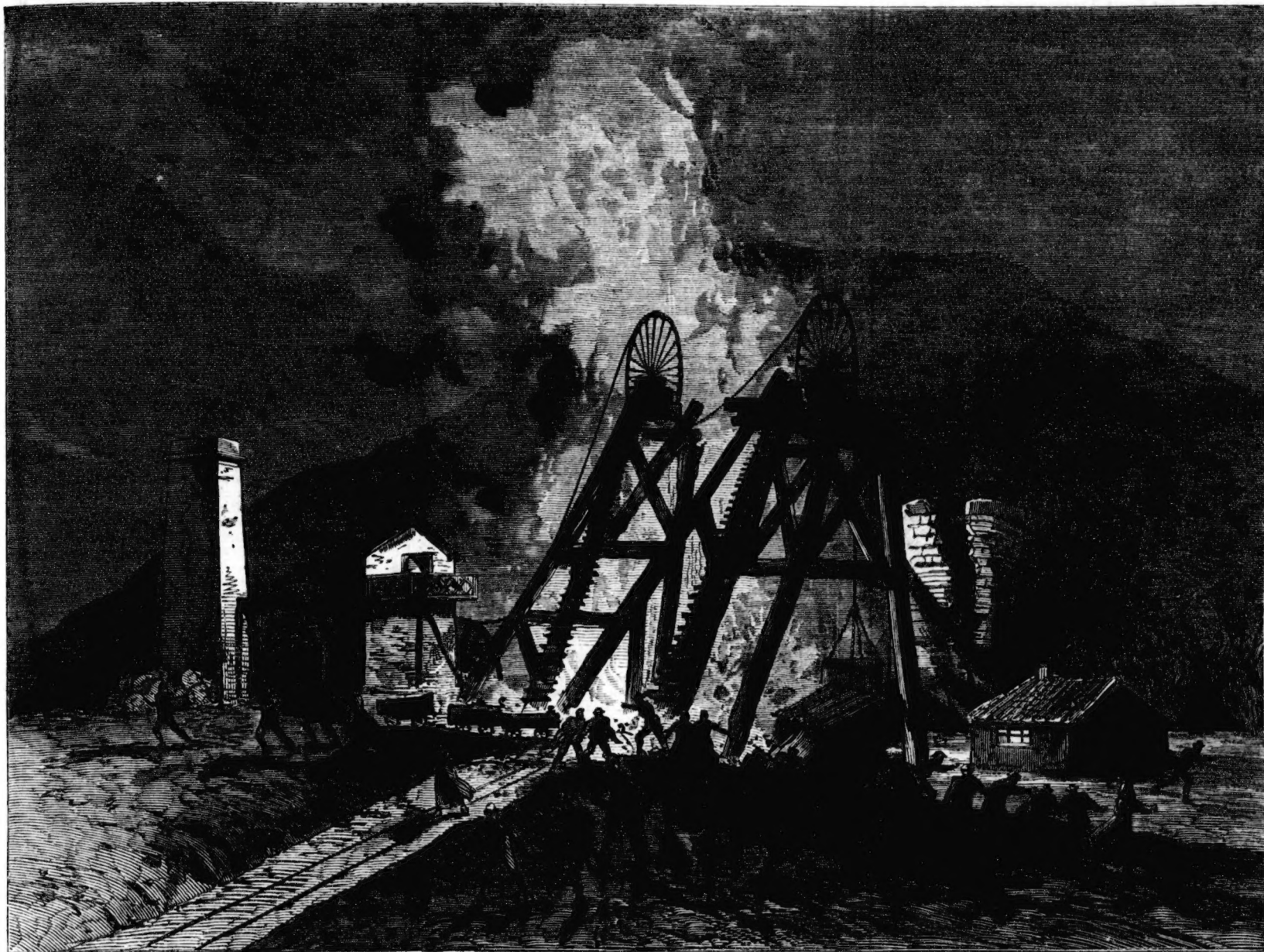
MR. BLYTHE, the landlord of a public-house in Glasshouse-street, Regent-street, came down from his bed-room shortly before seven o'clock, on Monday morning, bringing with him his cash-box, containing notes, gold, and silver, to the amount of £450, together with the lease of his house and other valuable papers, which he placed on the table in the bar-parlour while he went into the bar to serve two men, whom he had just admitted. He then went outside to pull the shutters down; and when he returned, a few minutes afterwards, the two men had disappeared, having left by a side door which leads into the mews adjoining the house, and the cash-box was gone also.



SCENE FROM "RANDALL'S THUMB," AT THE COURT THEATRE: THE VILLAIN DETECTED.



LIFE IN PARIS: THE BOURSE.—(SEE PAGE 157.)



THE FATAL COLLIERY EXPLOSION AT PEINTRE.



THE GERMANS IN PARIS: CAVALRY SCATTERING THE MOB —(SEE PAGE 148.)

"RANDALL'S THUMB," AT THE COURT THEATRE.

MR. W. S. GILBERT'S comedy of "Randall's Thumb," which has been running at the Court Theatre since Jan. 25, is still a favourite with the audiences assembling in the new West-End playhouse. Randall is a scoundrel and adventurer, and his thumb has only a metaphorical significance indicative of his secret influence over the hero, Buckthorpe. This latter young gentleman has, in his youth, been unlucky enough to kill a man. There had been a quarrel, a struggle in self defence, a wound inflicted by a sword-stick, a fall over a cliff, and an accusation of murder. The essence of guilt being, as Randall very acutely observes, not an infraction of the laws of the land, but "a combination of circumstances sufficient to induce a jury to find a verdict of guilty," Buckthorpe flies the country, and a reward of £300 is offered for his apprehension. It is the knowledge of this fact which enables Randall to place his "thumb" very heavily on his victim. Buckthorpe revisits his old haunts after some years, and arrives at an hotel at a watering-place called Beachington, closely followed by his tyrant; for Randall wants the services of Buckthorpe in extracting information of a useful kind out of a young lady named Edith Temple. Threatened with a denunciation to the police, Buckthorpe gives a seeming consent; but the young lady proves to be one to whom he had been attached before his flight. They recognise each other, renew their protestations of affection, and are happy enough till awakened from their dreams by Randall, who insists upon obedience to his commands. Under these circumstances, Buckthorpe takes the only manly course—he defies his oppressor to do his worst, confesses his difficulty to Edith, and finally to her guardian (a choleric uncle and retired surgeon), who brings matters to an issue by compelling Randall to send for an inspector of police that the question of whether the informer or the informed against is a rogue may at once be investigated. This, however, does not suit Randall, who, after vain endeavours to escape, finds himself taken in his own trap; for the inspector recognises him as a forger much "wanted" by the police, while the revelation of the circumstances leads to the discovery that the supposed murdered man is Edith's uncle, who had escaped with his life by an accidental circumstance. This story, which is conveyed to the audience with more of retrospective narrative than is convenient on the stage, is of a rather violent kind, and to make it the theme of a comedy—that is, a piece in which lively dialogue, satire, and character are predominant features—was, we think, a mistake. Indeed, the author himself appears to have felt this, for not only do his more legitimate comedy-scenes greatly overpower the drama element, but his characters, which are highly amusing in themselves, are, before the story properly begins, permitted to assume a prominence which compels the spectator to regard the hero and his persecutor as merely incidental to some less defined purpose. For all this, and notwithstanding the somewhat improbable character of the plot, there is a certain vigour in the melodramatic portions which excited interest. Buckthorpe's final defiance of his tempter, for example, gives rise to a dialogue passage of remarkable dramatic energy, which is greatly aided by Mr. Vezin's earnest and impressive acting. The success of "Randall's Thumb," however, must be imputed to the originality of some of its characters; the freshness of its comedy situations; and, above all, to the point and humour of its dialogue. Much of the amusement of the author's types of Beachington society is derived from the notion that at this watering-place no couples are regarded as "lions" unless they are newly married. Impressed with this fact, Mr. and Mrs. Scantlebury, a pair who have been wedded thirty-five years, have the weakness to pretend to be still in their honeymoon. The couple who perpetually fondle in public, only to rail at each other when they believe themselves alone, afford abundant opportunities for the humour of Mrs. Stephens and Mr. Frank Matthews. Contrasted with these, however, is another pair, who, though really in their honeymoon, conspire to thwart the impertinent solicitude of Beachington, by pretending to a five-years' wedded life, and only fondling in private, while they rail at each other—it must be confessed, with rather exaggerated vehemence—every time any friend or stranger is near. Most amusing of all, however, is the position of Bangle, an old doctor, who is suffering from the imperturbable attentions of a rather faded spinster, who haunts him at picnics, lingers with him on rocks until the sea rises, and finally secures her not unwilling victim. The performance of this latter character by Miss M. Brennan contributes in no small degree to the success of the comedy. Mr. Belford, as the adventurer and scoundrel Randall, is quite an ideal representative of cool impudence and accomplished roguery. The acting, indeed, is throughout remarkably finished—even the little part of a waiter, performed by Mr. Parry, being worth noticing. Careful preparation is no less visible in the dresses and appointments, while the scenery is very picturesque and effective.

THE FATAL EXPLOSION AT PENTRE COLLIERY.

As briefly stated in our last week's Number, a disastrous explosion occurred, late on Friday night, Feb. 24, at the Pentre Colliery, in the Rhondda Valley, which resulted in the death of forty-one persons employed in the pit. At half-past nine the residents in the adjoining houses were alarmed by a violent shock. The houses were roughly shaken, and a shower of bricks, stones, and refuse fell upon the roofs and the ground surrounding. Crowds of people hastened to the pit's mouth, and on their arrival it was at once apparent that a terrible explosion had occurred. The pit is sunk to the 4-ft. seam, but the 2-ft.-9-in. seam (the famous Welsh steam coal) is chiefly worked. It was in the heading which follows this seam of coal for about 400 yards southerly from the bottom of the shaft that the explosion occurred. How it originated is not known, but it is believed that a blower of gas came into contact with an open lamp, and thus ignited.

There are 300 men employed in the pit; but at the time of the explosion only the night shift was at work, which consisted of thirty-six men, of whom five were hauliers, the rest being colliers. These were all killed by the explosion, either by contact with the fiery blast or by the equally fatal choke-damp. Five of these were men working near the spot where the explosion must have occurred; the others—one of whom was the son of the manager—had gone down as an exploring party, and had fallen victims to the after-blast, in a courageous attempt to rescue the men in the exploded part of the pit. Some of the bodies were very badly burnt and charred and contorted until they had lost all resemblance to humanity, one body in particular presenting a most distressing sight, the whole of the internal organs being exposed. The intensity of the heat may be judged from the fact that the silver watch carried by one of the men had melted in his pocket.

The workings of the colliery were very much shattered. The roof had been blown down in several places, which blocked up the roadways and impeded the circulation of air. Owing to this, the atmosphere in the pit became so bad and so overcharged with sulphur that at ten o'clock on Saturday morning, Feb. 25, it was found impossible to proceed with the exploration. A strong working party went down, and vigorous efforts were made to clear away the debris and restore a proper ventilation. By night the works had been so far cleared from falls and rubbish that the explorers were enabled to approach those portions of the pit where men were known to be working at the time of this explosion. Five horses were employed at the time of the explosion. Three were at work with the hauliers, and were killed; the other two were found in the stable, feeding quietly from the rack, and unhurt. The pit, which bears a character for good management and ventilation, belongs to Messrs. Kelly, Cory, and Ware, of Cardiff.

Vigorous efforts to clear the workings and restore ventilation have since been made with considerable success; and the recovery of the bodies of the victims is being accomplished.

Another deplorable colliery explosion has taken place in Monmouthshire, the scene of the disaster being the Victoria Ebbw Vale Colliery. Nineteen lives have been lost, and eight survivors are suffering from more or less serious injuries.

THE LOUNGER.

MR. CHILDERS retires from the post of First Lord of the Admiralty, and Mr. Goschen takes his place. Mr. Goschen, in 1865, was appointed Vice-President of the Board of Trade; a very suitable office for a City merchant. In 1866, when he had just got used to his work, he was transferred to the Duchy of Lancaster, where he had little work to do. He was, though, admitted into the Cabinet, where he could give counsel for his pay. In 1868, on the downfall of the Conservative Government, he became President of the Poor-Law Board; and now he is hoisted into the elevated position of First Lord of the Admiralty. His salary at the Duchy and at the Poor-Law Board was £2000 a year; as First Lord he takes £4500. A very rapid rise has Mr. Goschen's been. At the opening of 1863 he had no thought of being in Parliament. In May of that year Mr. Western Wood, the member for the City, suddenly died. The City Liberal Registration Society had to look round for a candidate. Someone suggested Mr. Goschen. He was approved; was asked, and consented, and got in without opposition. And now he holds one of the highest offices, standing on a level with the chief Secretary of State. But is he qualified for this office? Well, he is as qualified for it as Mr. Childers was when he took it, or Mr. Corrie, or the Duke of Somerset, or Sir John Pakington, not one of whom knew anything about the duties of the post until he had to perform them.

Mr. Stansfeld's appointment to the presidency of the Poor-Law Board is in every way satisfactory. The papers told us that these changes would send nobody to his constituents. They were wrong. Mr. Stansfeld vacates his seat. I am told, though, that he will have no difficulty in getting re-elected, which one is glad to hear. In 1868 Mr. Stansfeld beat his Tory opponent by 5278 to 2862. Whilst I am writing, nobody knows who is to be Secretary to the Admiralty, vice Mr. Baxter, who takes Mr. Stansfeld's place at the Treasury. The post has, I hear, been offered to Mr. Adam, a Lord of the Treasury and junior whip; but, though the salary is double that which he now receives, he hesitates, modestly doubting whether he is qualified, as if that had anything to do with it. Can he not learn the duties as others have done? There are plenty of clever permanent officials to teach him. One cannot help, though, respecting such modesty. It is as refreshing as it is rare.

Mr. Baxter's removal to the Treasury is a real misfortune to the Admiralty, which will be felt very severely there, and regretted by all the officials except those who feared his watchful, searching eye. However, he has set his new system in order, and has got together a body of officials capable of keeping it going, if they are not hindered and obstructed by some incapable chief of the Secretary's department. Mr. Baxter, it is said, did not want to leave; very strongly objected, indeed, to be removed. But Mr. Gladstone was urgent. The secretaryship of the Treasury is an exceedingly important and responsible post, and he could find no man so well qualified to fill it as Mr. Baxter.

It is confidently rumoured that when Mr. Cardwell shall have got clear of his Army Reorganisation Bill and the Army Estimates, Mr. Speaker, wearied of his work, will retire, and that Mr. Cardwell will be elected to the chair. His appointment would be very popular; for Mr. Cardwell, though his management at the War Office has been unsparingly criticised and censured, is a favourite; and every member, whether Whig, Tory, or Radical, would be glad to see him in a post the duties of which all believe he will perform with dignity, patience, and impartiality. Mr. Denison will, of course, go to the Upper House, with a pension of £4000 for life.

Will the period ever arrive, I wonder, when thorough and timely precautions will be taken in Great Britain against the advent and propagation of preventable disease? Here have we been suffering for some months past under an epidemic of small-pox, a disorder which, as is well known, can be easily and effectively prevented; and yet neither its origination nor spread has been adequately provided against. Scarlatina, measles, fevers of all sorts, have their being at first and their maintenance afterwards in filth, foulness, over-crowding, bad water, and worse air; and yet the conditions that produce these and other zymotic diseases are allowed to exist unmitigated in rankness in every city, town, and village in the land! And only when a "visitation" is actually upon us are any efforts—and those generally of a spasmodic, ineffective character—made to check their ravages. The war in France is almost sure to be followed by dire disorders in the course of the ensuing summer; and yet, so far as I have seen or heard, the Belgian Government alone is alive to the imminence of the danger, or taking any steps to obviate it. King Leopold's Ministers have appointed a Commission to visit France, examine the state of the graves on the several battle-fields, and decide upon the measures that it may be proper to take in order to prevent the generation and spread of disease; but no other Power in Europe seems to take any heed of the matter, and yet all are equally interested in the work. Why should not England have a sanitary commission in existence, as well to take precautions abroad as to organise arrangements to meet the evil, should it arise, at home? The labour would not be wasted under any circumstances; and surely the saving of life from preventable disease is a task more worthy of real statesmanship than squabbling over supposititious secret treaties or uttering jeremiads over the decadence, real or imaginary, of the political influence of England on the Continent. The danger, however, at present seems distant; and so, of course, nobody gives it attention. But this smallpox epidemic is a genuine veritable presence, and therefore ought to be grappled with. And how is it to be effectually grappled with? Only by making vaccination really and truly universal and compulsory. By vaccination I mean genuine vaccination—incubation direct from the cow. For the purpose of procuring pure lymph it would be a good plan to pass a short law empowering, and compelling, every board of guardians—yes, every parish vestry—to hire a small meadow and keep their own heifer for the production of vaccine virus for the entire district; and also compelling every person within the bounds to submit themselves to the operation of vaccination. Several objects would thus be accomplished:—First, an ample and effective supply of lymph would always be at command; second, the dangers arising from the transmission of other diseases, through vaccinating from unwholesome subjects, would be obviated; third, the prejudices arising from fear of such transmission of chronic disease would be dissipated; and, fourth, failure of the operation, resulting from dead lymph, would be practically impossible. The cost need not be a bugbear, either. Medical men would be glad to pay for a supply of lymph from a pure and effective source, and thus the local authorities would be recouped their expenditure on the cow. Vaccination from the human subject is better than no vaccination at all; but lymph so obtained can never be relied upon either for purity or effectiveness, whereas the original source may always be depended upon for both. I hope soon to see this proposal—which I have heard mooted in several quarters—taken up and worked systematically all over the kingdom.

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

THE MAGAZINES, ETC.

Room for the new comer! That is the rule in this periodical; so let us put the *Dark Blue* at the top. The characteristic of this new magazine is freshness, and a very good characteristic too. The cover is striking, and, barring the two heads of dons, very good. Besides this, the illustrations—both capital—are executed with an unusual degree of care. I have often observed here that illustrators are now an overworked and overpaid race, and they have latterly scamped their work in the most abominable manner; not all of them; of course, but a great many. If the *Dark Blue* sticks to its present standard, it will do something towards a revival of conscience and care in work on the wood. As to literature, I will add nothing to the word "freshness," lest I should seem invidious in dealing with an early number.

Mr. Friswell has been writing to the *Spectator*, &c., to declare that the distinguished public man to whom his book of "honest criticism" was dedicated knew nothing of its contents. Nobody can tell why Mr. Friswell wrote this letter; but it was certainly due to the unlucky dedicatee. Does it, however, improve his own case? He adds that he did not know that the word "goguenard" at any time meant goggle-eyed, or anything of the kind. Neither did I; nor can I find any such meaning in old dictionaries. By-the-by, talking of French, I am comparing Mr. Friswell's story, "One of Two," with its French parent, "L'Affaire Lerouge," par Emile Gaboriau.

In *Macmillan* "Patty," the story, is continued with much force and brightness. Canon Kingsley, on "The Natural Theology of the Future," is readable, but rather weak. Mr. Edwin Goadby denies that England is being "effaced," and he vigorously attacks Mr. Frederick Harrison's paper in the *Fortnightly*. Well he may; for not only is it evident that England has not lost power in the council of nations, it is also plain that Mr. Harrison has no programme. The poem, "Art as an Aim in Life," is clearly by the same writer as that upon the "Implicit Promise of Immortality," and, though not so good, or, at all events, not so powerful, it is a beautiful poem.

Appropos—it is curious to note how the ten-syllable iambic has sprung into fresh life of late; and what a new thing it has become in quite modern hands. The short paper on "People's Boys" is intelligent and straightforward, but rather rough. If there is really any considerable field of observation over which criticisms like these apply, all I can say is there must be a queer lot of parents in the world. That children should be taught to obey; that they should not be "cosseted"; that they should not be allowed to take liberties; that they should not be encouraged in affectations—these are such trite lessons that it is only wonderful the author of the paper should have put them into so brisk and readable a shape. I sadly fear the root of all such evils as he strikes at lies very deep down.

I see advertised the ninety-sixth thousand of Miss Saunders's story of "Gideon's Rock." Her new story is to commence in the April number of *Good Words*.

The *People's Magazine* is a capital number, and contains a really good translation of the sermon by Emil Frommel, army chaplain, upon the entry of the Germans into Strasbourg on the 30th of last September.

The *Leisure Hour* is also admirable this month, both in letter-press and illustration. Mr. Timbs's autobiographical notes abound in personal reminiscences, and are therefore very interesting.

The *Rainbow Stories*, for the young, well deserve a word of praise.

I have received the *Nautical Magazine*, which begins a new series, and to all appearance "excellent well, I faith!" But how can I review a nautical magazine? Let me, however, do my best. Shiver my timbers! Dash my old lee-scuppers! Hard-a-port. Reef mizen-topsails. Man the yards. Box the compass. Abaft the binnacle. Splice the jibboom. Luff you may. There!

In *London Society* Mr. S. L. Blanchard's "Two Plunges for a Pearl" has been very good, and I believe it is now republished. There is an odd error of the press at the foot of the second column on page 196. The "Piccadilly Papers," which are sometimes rather jejune, are this time excellent. In a "Dream of the Studio," the bust on the right hand side is strikingly like Mr. Robert Buchanan. Surely, it must be directly intended for him?

English Society has some really charming verses by the author of the "Harvest of a Quiet Eye;" and the paper on "Mysteries of Everyday Life" is capital. But we have surely heard enough about the pins and the fluff in the waistcoat pocket.

The *Victoria Magazine* contains one good paper—"Hints to Educated Women"—which deserved much more care in the printing than it has received. These hints should be reprinted with or without amplification. They are excellent. However much it may hurt the feelings of "educated women" to be told that very few of them can spell properly, and that scarcely any woman can copy accurately a few lines of print, it will do them good to know it; at least, it ought to. Those who like to do so may believe, if they can, that the base tyranny of the sensual despot Man is responsible for the defects of education, or what-not, that help to lead up to the facts.

The third number of Mr. Ruskin's *Fors Clavigera* has reached me; but I cannot, at present, form any idea of what is to be the scope of these letters. Of course, they are powerful—Mr. Ruskin is always Mr. Ruskin. But I fear I shall not see my way clearly till we get back to that "Position of William" with which we started in the first number. However, the end of the war has taken some dust out of one's eyes, and I will try again.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

Mr. Albery, having made a great and genuine success with the "Two Roses" at the Vaudeville, has failed altogether with his second play. And I think, on the whole, he deserved to fail. To begin with, he courted comparison, by calling the ST. JAMES'S comedy the "Two Thorns"—an unworthy and vulgar jest, utterly beneath the notice of an author who, I am told, has already set the Thames on fire, and who, by his epigram and brilliancy, intends to astonish the educated world. In the second place, I find that this second play by Mr. Albery is an old comedy rejected a year ago by the Vaudeville management, rejected only lately by the management of the new Court Theatre, and which, when produced in Liverpool, failed ignominiously. It speaks much for the perseverance of the author and for the pliability of the managers to find this wretched bantling produced at last in London. The "Two Thorns," or "The Coquettes" (or by whatever name you choose to call the play), has been produced in London, and the result is a confirmation of the Liverpool verdict and of the opinions expressed by the management at the Vaudeville and at the Court. It is a clumsy, ill-constructed play, which shows plainly the weakness—nay, the ignorance—of an amateur playwright. The dialogue is said to be brilliant, epigrammatic, and so on; but I fail to find anything but some smart repartee, some pedantic truisms, and some horrible coarseness, which, according to the new-fangled notions, passes for wit. A worthless comedy was never better received. Mr. Albery's name is so deservedly respected that it is sad to find the cheers on the occasion of his second comedy so decidedly ironical. The new comedy is not worth criticising. It contains faults so grave that one is persuaded the author has neither the dramatic faculty nor a knowledge of the world sufficient to justify him in writing a satirical comedy. The physician who does not heal himself is hardly entitled to a hearing. The acting may be dismissed almost as briefly as the play. Mr. Farren is sound and thoroughly good, and Mrs. Vezin, with difficulties in her path, plays the principal character as no other actress in London could play it; but when I have mentioned the two principals I feel that I have little else to say. Miss Brough and Miss Lilian Adair, as two pretty and natural girls, are entitled to much praise. Mr. Gaston Murray, well dressed, well made up, and speaking his few lines with much point, is also entitled to consideration. But what can be said of such performances as Mr. Lionel Brough as a polished old gentleman, and Mr. A. W. Young as a gentlemanly villain? To say that they are bad, is treating them with too much respect. They are more than bad. The "Two Thorns" may run for a few weeks, thanks to bolstered-up advertisements and the controversy which has sprung out of it; but I fear Mr. Albery's reputation remains just where it was. All who know anything about the stage would have rejected such a comedy after reading half an act. In dramatic writing there are certain given laws which must be obeyed; and at present Mr. Albery is not, in my humble opinion, sufficiently brilliant to enable him to be so far original that he can throw stage tradition to the winds. He has much to learn; and I can only wish that he had learned the lesson of industry, which would have prevented him from foisting on the public a worthless comedy before exhausting the mine in his brain.

A GERMAN VIEW OF THE TERMS OF PEACE.—The *Cologne Gazette* says:—"The war indemnity has been fixed at five milliards, which far exceeds what the best German economists considered France was able to meet, their limit having been two to three milliards." But possibly this sum is liable to reductions on account of the proportion of debt hitherto borne by the ceded districts and of other accounts. It is presumed that for the reasons that France will actually have to pay will reduce it to about two milliards and a half. That, indeed, is a very large amount, especially when it is remembered that in 1815 France had to pay to Europe only 700 millions. It must have cost the German negotiators some trouble to ensure the regular payment of the instalments during the next three years. The best security for us would always be the occupation of French territory until the whole amount has been paid. We have Alsace, German Lorraine, and a small portion of French Lorraine, with the important fortress of Metz. Our readers are acquainted with our views upon this subject. For some time past we have ceased to discuss the conditions of peace. All of us desire a lasting peace; and we hope that Count Bismarck has succeeded in arranging conditions which are likely to ensure peace for the longest possible period between two great civilised nations. The French negotiators made the strongest efforts to preserve Metz. They did not succeed; but they did retain Belfort, although it is situate in Alsace. We do not regret that, as every renunciation of French territory appears to us to be for our advantage. We accept the conditions of peace as our statesmen in their wisdom have settled them. For the great majority of the nation the important fact is that peace is concluded. We have never dwelt upon the longings of Germany for peace, lest it should be supposed in France that the sacrifices entailed by the war were dispiriting us. No; as long as the war was necessary the German peoples never faltered either in their homes or on the battle-field. We willingly bear the burdens which the State imposes and the war demands; and each man and woman among us cheerfully contributes to alleviate the suffering which the war has caused. But enough of precious blood has been shed, and we know but too well what a terrible misfortune war is to the victor as well as to the vanquished."



LIFE IN PARIS: THE BOIS DE BOULOGNE.



A CHINESE FORT IN THE MANKON STRAIT, MING-HO RIVER.

LIFE IN PARIS. THE BOIS DE BOULOGNE.

To anyone not taking into account the amazing elasticity of temper and vivacity of disposition displayed by the Parisian people, the present aspect of the capital of France compared with the scene which it presented only a few days ago would be simply astounding. Only two days after the German occupation, cafés were opened, restaurants doing a good business, loungers appeared on the pavement or sat stretching their legs at the little marble tables on the Boulevards. Cabs and omnibuses have begun to appear, horsed with steeds bought from the Prussians at 500*f.* apiece. Gas has again been lighted in the thoroughfares; the theatres are opened, and will shortly be occupied by eager crowds witnessing pieces about the "Prussian savages" and the heroism of the siege. Rats, cats, and dogs—to say nothing of donkeys, ostriches, and elephants—will speedily disappear from the *ménus* of any but the fashionable hotels, where, like frogs, they will command a high price per *videt*. Modistes will begin to invent fashions, that all

Europe may once more learn how to dress; and, what is more, the leaders of fashion, whoever they may be under the new régime, will probably soon walk abroad to display the triumph of millinery and dressmaking over national disasters. It is true that the Champs Elysées have been defiled by the Prussian hordes of occupation; that the flower-beds and lawns have been trampled, the little summer theatres desecrated, and one of them gutted of chairs and benches that the soldiers of William, King and Emperor, might light fires to boil their pea soup. The Bois de Boulogne, too, has been almost destroyed, first by being the great pound or laystall for all kinds of beasts—a kind of *dépôt* where animals were gathered together as though some new Noah wanted them for preservation in an ark. Alas! they were all eaten up before the capitulation was signed, and the wood itself became a wood no longer, for the trees were burnt where they stood or were hewed down for fuel, and the green slopes were trodden by infantry and cut up by heavy wheels into a muddy waste. What has become of the Pré Catalan, where the poet Arnold Catalan was slain by the escort sent to meet him as he journeyed from the Court of Love at Provence to meet Philip? Where are the exquisite little dinners

for which this once celebrated *réunion* was famous? Where its *al-fresco* games; its juvenile dancing parties, where the children of fashion met and learned to behave "in society;" where its crowd of costumes and its ravishing toilettes? Well, in a few days who knows what may happen? Louis Napoleon—we must perhaps, call him Louis Bonaparte now—made the Bois de Boulogne new in his time, added lakes and *parterres*, and roads and winding paths, and green banks, and even had big trees planted, all a-growing. What can be done under an Imperial edict may be done by an order of a Representative Assembly; but in any case Life in Paris will not be smitten with paralysis, and our Illustration but represents a scene in the Paris of to-day—or, at all events, in the Paris of to-morrow, or of next week, when the new dresses come out, and *Le Follet* is continued with a vigour which almost ignores its past difficulties in the face of Europe.

THE BOURSE,

even, has resumed as much activity as though a mere temporary depression had been observable and the building had never been closed. At present, however, that resort will be dangerous for



THE LATE WAR: THE GERMANS ENTERING AMIENS.—(SEE PAGE 145.)

any of the German nation. Only the other day two German tradesmen attempted to open shops in Paris; but that was too much for the mob: "the people" rose in its might and compelled these enterprising remainders of the army of occupation to shut up at once. One financier who sought the Bourse adopted the obvious expedient of labelling himself Austrian by means of a ticket stuck in his hat, and so was tolerated. There must be a vast emphasis just now in the cries of the agents *du change*. Between one and three o'clock how great must be the din in the *parquet*—that portion of the hall which is railed off for these gentlemen, who are still further protected by the "corbeille," or inner circle. The yells remind one of the betting-book makers at our races, only there is more gesticulation, more tumult, more intensity of expression. There is a place, too, for the jobbers, near the *parquet*; unlicensed speculators who gamble together "for the account," and, as women are, or were, admitted to the exchange, there is a great variety of tone in screeching. Whether under the Republic the "Petite Bourse" will be continued we have not learnt. This was, after all, more like those casual meetings of betting-men, touters, and tipsters, who formerly congregated in Fleet-street and assembled "on the ruins" in Farringdon-street; but the gambling at the *Petite Bourse* was in "securities" and shares. It was formerly held in the *Passage de l'Opéra*; afterwards its members were leared out from that place and met in the Boulevard, just opposite to the *Passage*, whence they dispersed at the approach of a *sargent-de-ville*. Under Republican institutions such an interference with the liberty of the citizen may not be authorised, and

the *Petite Bourse* may be revived. At any rate, our Engraving will show what the Bourse itself is like already.

A CHINESE FORT IN THE MING-HO.

Among the many things for which it is distinguished, China is especially remarkable for the number and size of its rivers. Among these rivers, not the least important is the Ming-Ho, on which stands the great city of Foo-Choo, or Fou-Tcheou-Foo, in the province of Fo-Kian, and the most considerable in that province on account of its trade and the convenience of its river and port. The city stands about twenty-five miles from the river's mouth; and the importance of the place has made its protection a matter of much care with the Chinese Government, which has had forts erected at all available points. One of these forts, situated on an island in a strait portion of the stream, is represented in our Engraving. A "paddy," or rice-field, is seen in the foreground. The city of Foo-Choo is encompassed by hills, and is the residence of a Viceroy and a British Consul. The number of its public buildings, and the magnificence of its principal bridge, which has more than one hundred arches, constructed of white stone and ornamented with a double balustrade, give it a handsome appearance. The public functionaries, of whom there are a great number, reside in buildings situated in the principal street. It has manufactories of cotton goods, porcelain, paper, carving in ivory, lacquered ware, silk goods, and dyeing. It is within seventy miles of the Black-ton district, and has extensive lead-mines in its neighbourhood.

The population, including its suburbs, is estimated at 1,000,000. It is situated in lat. 26 deg. 12 min. N.; long. 119 deg. 30 min. E.

THE FORTHCOMING INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION.

Although the fulfilment of their engagement will no doubt tax their energies to the uttermost, there is every reason to anticipate that the commissioners who are directing the first Annual International Exhibition will open the building on the 1st of the forthcoming May. The articles have arrived rapidly, in some cases too rapidly; the buildings are beginning to assume shape, if not comeliness, and in some departments of the work things are nearly ready for the finishing touches. Nothing, we believe, can ever make two long buildings which stretch out as wings to the arcades of the Horticultural Gardens pleasing to the outward beholder, but their surroundings save them from the charge of downright ugliness. The Conservatory, with its glassy elegance, makes a light and relieving centre to the immense semicircle of buildings; the dome of the Albert Hall is a harmonious background, and the upper part of the Prince Consort Memorial gives a yellow magnificence to the general view. We are now referring to what is seen from an interior standpoint, either from the balcony promenade which runs outside the galleries, or from the gardens themselves. The balcony, we can easily imagine, will be the favourite summer resort of loungers who, tired of the exhibition, will from here look down upon the lawns and flowers, shrubs and fountains, and the temples upon the grand terrace. At present, however, the scene

is anything but fairylike, and the adorer of works of art runs the risk of receiving a shock which he who penetrates behind the scenes must always expect, of whatever nature the scenes may be. Empty cases lay about in every direction, discarded packing-cases were abundant, timber in the rough and timber sawn and planed, gas-pipes and water-pipes, iron railing, and litters of straw and shavings covered the grand entrance that is to be, leaving nothing but rows of half-buried iron sockets peeping from the ground like early bulbs, to indicate where the boundary railings are to rise.

The music greeting a visitor the other day was that of the saw, and hammer, and plane; and the perfume that of bright hard varnish and French polish. In some places a whole department was converted into a workshop, where carpenters and cabinet-makers were manufacturing the cases and stands which the Commissioners are providing for the exhibitors; in others Lieutenant-Colonel Scott's nimble army of assistants, most of them belonging to the Corps of Engineers, were sorting, labelling, and classifying the articles which had recently arrived—a busy scene, and an interesting one, when it was remembered how many hopes might be centred upon the productions, sent, it may be, from a foreign country for admiration and acceptance. But in the midst of these fine-art subjects—and fine art, be it understood, is to be the strong point of the Exhibition—it would puzzle the most reverential of men to preserve his gravity unbroken. A beautiful nymph in the usual attitude is rising out of a bath of "whitey-brown" paper, a bit of blue pack-thread considerably interfering with the graceful line of her nose. A trunk of Venus lies helpless on the floor, and in the corner her abandoned head faces a prosaic broom and pail. Here you perceive a mass of figures swathed in paper, and out of the midst of one a prettily-chiselled marble hand points upward to a man who is strengthening a joist. In one or two departments the goods are already in their cases, but not finally arranged; in other departments the empty cases stand in black funeral rows. Pictures, and sculptures, and carvings have been coming in fast from Belgium, but the hall allotted to France is complete in its desolation. Now that the dread "occupation" is over in Paris, however, contributions from our sorrowful neighbours may be expected. The articles for the Italian gallery will soon also be forthcoming. On the English side—the west wing—matters are progressing most busily. We should be afraid to say how many pictures have been sent for exhibition, but certainly four times as many as can be hung. Descending to the ground floor, we found objects of beauty and utility jostling each other without ceremony. The Sleeping Beauty, and a collection of cogwheels, bolts, and nuts, occupied the same space of flooring. A young Bacchus stood revealed, with his chubby leg snapped off short at the knee joint, while a bushel of fragments of what were once valuable casts testified to the gentle treatment these worthies of antiquity demand. A giant statue of Cobden was being shifted by six men as we passed through one of the sections, and, by a singular accident, the great free-trader's outstretched forefinger pointed straight down at Lord Palmerston's face; but the noble Lord's attention was intently fixed upon the back hair of a nude goddess. Cobden had sustained a serious fracture of the shin, and was tied up with a good deal of cord about the lower extremities. A bronze boy with a cricket-bat seemed on the point of demolishing Cruikshank's "Robert the Bruce" without warning or apology; and a sweet little fairy in marble was simply turned upside down and propped up with a 3-in. plank. The chaos and incongruity, however, will not last for ever, and even while we lingered amongst the confused groups of statuary, the prompt and methodical workmen had shifted or entirely removed them.

The Exhibition buildings form the east and west boundaries of the Horticultural Gardens, and they will be connected with each other by means of a covered way running through the conservatory. The remnant of the old Exhibition, which has been used as the National Portrait Gallery, will probably be the refreshment contractors' domain, and the home of exhibited articles of a heavy kind. The series of rooms, both on the basement and the gallery, are wide and lofty, although from their extreme length they have a narrow appearance. There is not much pretension to ornament either within or without. It is too soon yet to offer any opinion upon the character of the Exhibition, or to describe the final arrangements. Those who expect a repetition of the first Exhibition, or even the last, will be disappointed; but, although the element sensational may be weak or wanting, the element artistic and educational will probably be much stronger than on the previous occasions. The special object of the Exhibition, which it should not be forgotten is the first of a connected series, is the collection of selected specimens, and not whatever a manufacturer chooses to send for the purposes of advertisement. In their aim to secure works of Fine Art that are strictly associated with purposes of utility, the Commissioners, we are informed, have been thoroughly successful; and they are confident that the experiment which they are about to commence in the permanent red and yellow buildings at Kensington-gore will fully answer the design of the promoters.

MUSIC.

At the Italian Opera Buffa, this week, Mr. Benedict's operetta "Un Anno ed un Giorno" was announced for performance on Thursday evening, preceded by the overture to "Guillaume Tell" and followed by an act from "L'Elisir d'Amore." The novelty is, we believe, an early work written during its author's sojourn in Italy. It is in one act only, and the music throughout boasts not a little of true Italian lightness and grace. Writing before the event, we can say nothing of the performance.

Madame Haydée Abrek (under which fanciful name is hidden a well-known French title) made a fair success at her concert in St. James's Hall on Thursday week. The lady possesses a good mezzo-soprano voice, with much earnestness of manner, and has evidently cultivated her talents to a high pitch. She sang Gounod's "Ave Maria," but sacred music is not within her means so completely as the music of the stage, her great successes being made in an air from "Le Domino Noir" and a drinking song from the "Galathée" of M. Victor Massé. Madame Abrek will most likely attain a good place in the profession to which circumstances have driven her. The "padding" of her concert requires no comment. It was supplied by Signor Gardoni, Signor delle Sedie, M. Hammer, M. Delaborde, and others.

Another titled lady—Princess Emma Matschinsky—gave a concert in the same hall on Tuesday last, assisted by Mlle. Liebhart, Miss Jenny Pratt, Mr. Sims Reeves, Mr. Lewis Thomas, Signor Piatti, the Chevalier de Kontski, and a very clever flautist (M. Sauvlet). Madame Matschinsky is hardly so well adapted for her new condition in life as the French Baroness just noticed. Indeed, her singing is that only of a moderately-gifted amateur. But the lady's story is a sad one, and personal claims will, let us hope, outweigh artistic deficiencies. She gave, as her share of the programme, Mozart's "Dove sono" and "Sull'aria," the latter with Mlle. Liebhart; Verdi's "Ah! morir," with Mr. Sims Reeves (encored); and a characteristic Russian ditty. The remainder of the concert was devoted to the odd assortment of things—good, bad, and indifferent—usual on occasions of the kind.

A large audience assembled at the Crystal Palace, on Saturday last, to hear Mr. Barnett's "Paradise and the Peri," a work written for the Birmingham Festival of last year, and since performed at St. James's Hall. The principals were Madame Vanzini, whose intonation was painfully uncertain; Madame Patey, Mr. Vernon Rigby, and Mr. Santley. The choruses were sung by the Crystal Palace Choir, and Mr. Barnett himself conducted. Under such circumstances the work was sure of a tolerably successful rendering, and the audience received nearly every number with applause. Our own estimate of its worth, given some time ago, need not be repeated now. Enough that further acquaintance confirms a belief that the music is singularly unworthy of the subject. The cantata was ushered in by Auber's overture to "Zanetta," and followed by the Wedding March.

Beethoven's septet, as played by MM. Joachim, Straus, Lazarus, Paquis, Hutchins, Reynolds, and Piatti, was the great attraction at the last Monday Popular Concert; and for the twenty-second time it delighted a large audience from the first note to the last. As usual, the scherzo had to be repeated; and every movement was applauded with more than common heartiness. The work next in point of interest was Schubert's piano-forte trio in B flat, which also enjoys no ordinary favour among Mr. Chappell's patrons. Though not without faults as an example of construction, the trio is full of beauties such as Schubert knew so well how to produce. A better performance could hardly be desired than that of MM. Franklin Taylor, Joachim, and Piatti. Mr. Taylor's solo was Beethoven's sonata in E flat ("Les Adieux, l'Absence, et le Retour"), the difficulties of which he surmounted in admirable style. Rarely do we find an English pianist acquitting himself so well on ground regarded by the Germans as their own. The vocalist was Mr. W. H. Cummings, both of whose songs were capitally sung, and much appreciated by those who know good vocalism from bad.

The Philharmonic Society gave its first concert for the season in St. James's Hall, on Wednesday evening, to a very large audience, among whom were the Princess of Wales and several other members of the Royal family. On this occasion special honour was paid to M. Gounod and to Beethoven: in the former case by a performance of his symphony in D and other smaller works; in the latter by a performance of the fifth symphony, and the exhibition of an authentic bust of the great master, just given to the society by a lady residing at Pesth. The two honours had better have been kept apart, especially for the sake of M. Gounod, who cannot yet afford to stand alongside the great German musician. We must congratulate the society on possessing a valuable memorial of Beethoven, the genuineness of which is attested by indisputable evidence. It is impossible for us, however, to join in the eternal paean addressed to the "Philharmonic" for its assistance to the master when on his death-bed. The honour of having helped such a man should be enough, to say nothing of a comfortable sense of duty performed. Mr. Cusins conducted that portion of the programme not given up to M. Gounod; and the vocalists were Miss Wynne and Mr. Santley.

Of Mr. Leslie's concert on Thursday and Herr Hiller's recital on Friday we must speak next week.

REPORT OF THE ROYAL SANITARY COMMISSION.

THIS Commission, which was set on foot by the last Administration, and promptly taken up by the present, has, after two years' devotion to its object, handsomely acknowledged by Mr. Bruce in the House of Commons, produced its report.

The subject of inquiry has been the operation of the sanitary laws, by which are meant all the laws affecting public health; not only such as, since the time of Richard II., have forbidden the accumulation of refuse in public streets, or the casting of filth into rivers, but such also as provide for the supply of the requisites of civilised life—pure water and well-regulated buildings. These laws have, moreover, of late not only provided for the removal of nuisances polluting the air, but for the use in fertilising the land of what has been hitherto so abused.

The subject of this Commission of Inquiry is the entire local government of the country in a sanitary point of view.

The primary executive of all such laws are the local authorities, kept in action by central supervision and assistance.

The area of the inquiry has been restricted to England and Wales, exclusively of the metropolis; but no doubt the metropolis and Scotland and Ireland must be affected by the precedent given in any legislation which may result from this report.

No one will question the present need of such an inquiry. The laws relating to such vital interests have become a heap of confusion, to which, even pending this report, the Legislature is continually adding.

Ever since the passing of the Municipal Corporations Act, in 1835, the better organisation of local government has been the subject of constant legislation, private and public. The need of various legal provisions for health and comfort was felt by everybody, while the functions of self-government were being largely developed. But particular measures were taken in hand separately, without connection, and without any general grasp of the whole subject. The larger towns obtained local Acts for themselves, and alarming epidemics led to special legislative precautions.

Then came a series of Parliamentary inquiries, from the year 1838 to 1848. There were official reports—that of Mr. Stanley's Committee, Mr. Chadwick's Report, and that of the Duke of Buccleuch's Commission.

In 1848 the first general Act was passed to provide for public health in populous places, and a General Board of Health was established. This Act, read together with another general Act passed in 1858, constitutes the main body of our sanitary law. From this trunk, however, an infinity of offshoots have sprung, without symmetry or even correspondence; and it is high time to purge and prune the tangled growth.

There are three principal defects in the present state of our sanitary laws loudly calling for remedy:—First, the confusion of accumulated and fragmentary legislation; secondly, the permissive adoption or non-adoption of most of the duties thereby prescribed; and, thirdly, the want of sufficient central authority to keep up uniform, general, and active performance of such duties as are prescribed.

The report proposes to deal with these defects in the following way:—First, it proposes to remedy the confusion of statutes by a total repeal of all, and their re-enactment in an amended, mutually adjusted, and consolidated form. There can be little doubt that any process short of this would only increase the confusion of law, which, especially in local matters, completely frustrates its administration. To amend Acts by reference and partially to repeal old Acts is a slovenly process which generally results in a worse state of the law than that which it proposes to amend. In fact, there is not much to be added to the provisions of our sanitary laws if they were put clearly together and repetition and conflict removed. Some Acts which are called subsidiary in the report may be too large for embodiment in the general statute, and fitter for separate treatment by themselves, such as the Burial Acts; but the great bulk of legislation on ordinary matters of local government may be and should be reduced to one clear and consistent whole. The local Acts of great towns will only be supplemented by this general statute, and not interfered with. They will probably in time become absorbed by it, and the frequent local legislation, which has been caused by the want of a general statute, will gradually cease. No doubt the progress of time and events will elicit more public legislation on the subject; but a comprehensive *corpus legis* will embrace all that the active experience of the last thirty years has proved to be requisite, and further legislation will at least be likely to have some connection and consistency with it.

The second defect—namely, the permissive adoption of the Acts—the report proposes to remove by at once establishing one authority in every place responsible for the whole law, so far as applicable to the nature of the place. In every corporate town, the Council; in every other populous place, an elected board; and in all rural districts, the board of guardians specially charged with such functions will be the responsible body. In a complete and amended enumeration of all the requisite powers of local government, some are restricted to towns and a few specially adapted for the country only; the rest are common to both.

It is needless to discuss the advantage of such a general and uniform application of the sanitary laws. Their present permissive nature belonged only to the tentative stage of legislation on the subject—which is certainly now past—and no reason remains for putting up with the very serious evils of partial and irregular local government.

The want of a central authority to keep local powers in action is proposed to be remedied by concentrating such authority in one

department, instead of leaving it scattered in three or four, as it now is.

Under the present system, the old Board of Health is now represented by the local government sub-department of the Home Office. All regulations about infectious diseases emanate from the Privy Council, and some matters of sanitary government are finally referred to the Board of Trade. The Poor-Law Board also has much in common with sanitary administration and service, especially in the country districts.

The report proposes that a new department should be created, under which the sanitary and the poor law should be administered in two separate branches, and that all the sanitary administration, now so much scattered, should be thus brought together. It suggests that the inspectors already employed might, with moderate addition to their numbers and diminution of their districts, be enabled to set the sanitary local government throughout the kingdom in motion, and keep it always up to its work. The central authority has already power to execute necessary works on the default of local authorities, and to charge the defaulting locality.

The report is thus arranged:—It commences with a history of our sanitary laws up to the present time, tracing them from a statute of the reign of Richard II., and showing their marked development concurrently with that of municipal self-government, and the stimulus which alarming visitations of Asiatic cholera gave to sanitary improvement.

Next come observations on the evidence received, but which is not yet all published. The preface promises a very elaborate analysis of evidence to appear in a subsequent volume, arranged in the same order of subjects as these observations. The comparative condition of places which have and have not adopted powers of sanitary administration is shown to afford sufficient proof that the law should be extended; and an elaborate disquisition follows as to the authorities and powers requisite for the purpose. The difficult question as to expenditure and rating is gone into, though in this the report defers to, and rests upon, the conclusions of the recent Select Committee on the subject. Probably in an improved distribution of charges and system of combined management lies the chief secret of success. The subject of more complete registration, not only of death, but of its causes, and of sickness, is obviously a contribution to this part of the report from the eminent medical gentlemen who formed part of the body of Commissioners. The medical, and legal, and engineering professions were all ably represented there, besides the two Houses of the Legislature.

Next to these observations comes a complete series of "suggestions" for the draughting of the consolidated statute which is one of the chief merits of the report. In about fifty pages the entire existing law is set out in methodical arrangement, and on parallel pages amendments are suggested at the points where amendment seems desirable or where the present enactments contradict or repeat themselves. Certainly, few reports have offered the materials for complete legislation more ready to the draughtsman's hands.

The report concludes with a sort of summary of these suggestions in the form of resolutions, to which, with singular unanimity on such a controverted subject, the Commissioners seem all to have agreed. Their conclusions are not likely to meet with a similar amount of consent out of doors—at all events, not till they have been thoroughly sifted and passed through the ordeal of much adverse criticism and inevitable opposition.

There is a very general dread of over-administration, and of crotchets and theories of improvement, and of the costliness of local government. The local taxation of this country is certainly high. Nevertheless, it is obviously more subject to scrutiny and check than the demands on the Imperial Treasury, upon which every possible claimant draws ruthlessly, as if its resources came from heaven, while its guardians have less means of minute insight into waste. Local imposts do not increase from negligence and apathy, but from unmethodical accumulation and want of system. They are not slipped upon us unawares and unconsciously drawn out of our pockets; but every local interest seeks its separate provision of taxation, administration, and even area, and the means which might more efficiently provide for all are wasted in multiplied machinery and confused service.

If the objects of sanitary legislation are wise and good, if the results of sanitary negligence are practically most costly, there must be found on reflection every reason for embracing in a large, liberal, and comprehensive scheme all the proved requisites for public health.

There is another very proper, characteristic, and instinctive dread amongst Englishmen, and that is of all central interference in local administration. A localised executive is of the very essence of our national freedom and vigour. It would be a great calamity if any "Minister of the Interior" were able to intrude upon our habits of local government. The report contains no such proposition—indeed, it expresses a repeated caution against such danger. The unity of the central department and its external provision of inspectors and of "experts" only to assist in any local work seem rather to keep the central supervision of the system of local government in its proper place, while preserving to the details of administration a strictly local character.

There are many obvious reasons why there should be no unnecessary delay in acting upon the results of this inquiry. The consolidation, simplification, and general application of our sanitary law, whatever it is to be, are a matter of urgent interest. Towns are everywhere getting local Acts for themselves in default of such general legislation. A mass of litigants crowd the Court of Chancery in search of remedies against nuisances which the proposed legislation would provide. The confusion of the Statute Book on the subject is every year increasing by detailed efforts to patch up the present defects in the law. The materials for legislation are in a very advanced state of preparation, and would constitute chiefly a work of re-enactment rather than of fresh enactment.

Both sides of the House of Commons are pledged to a prosecution of the work so fully prepared to the draughtsman's hands, and all the great towns are already provided with the machinery which this legislation would only supplement and make general and uniform throughout the kingdom.

It is enough to remember that thousands of lives are yearly sacrificed by disease, the causes of which are preventable, only for want of better organisation and precaution, which the present expenditure on local government might by system and economy fully command.

THE REV. MR. SPURGEON concluded a public address the other day with these remarks:—"On Sunday, you know, the commandment is, 'You shall not be happy.' It would be a great wrong if a preacher made you smile. I don't believe it. I make people laugh on Sunday. I believe that the risible faculty has as much good as the faculty which makes us cry. I don't think it wrong to make people laugh on Sunday. There are more flies caught by honey than vinegar."

THE TORPEY CASE.—The acquittal of Mrs. Martha Torpey will, we doubt not, somewhat surprise the public. If a married woman does a criminal act in the presence and with the concurrence of her husband, the presumption in law is that the act is done under the influence and coercion of the husband, and the wife is not criminally responsible. It is for the prosecution to adduce evidence that there was not such influence and coercion; but then it is exceedingly difficult, not to say impossible, to prove a negative. We cannot have a much stronger case than that of Mrs. Torpey. There is not a little of evidence of unwillingness. An elaborate scheme of plunder depended for its due execution on her tact and coolness. She performed her part of the play admirably. She left the room to fetch her "sister," she came back with the saturated handkerchief, and she assaulted Mr. Parkes, and reduced him to a state of unconsciousness. This seems to us to approach very nearly to the class of grievous crimes for the commission of which married women are responsible, whether there is or is not coercion on the part of the husband. In the case of Mrs. Torpey there was no physical duress, and the coercion was a moral coercion if any. We have given married women certain rights of property independent of their husbands, and perhaps it would be just and expedient to hold married women criminally responsible for violating the law at the bidding of their husbands.—*Law Journal*.

OBITUARY.

SIR ROBERT PIGOT, BART.—We have to announce the death of Sir Robert Pigot, Bart., which occurred on Tuesday, at Folkestone, from smallpox. The late Sir Robert was the second son of General Sir George Pigot, third Baronet, by his wife, Mary Anne, daughter of the Hon. John Mordaunt. He was born in 1808, and married first, Oct. 5, 1827, Mary, second daughter of Mr. William Bamford, of Bamford, county of Lancaster; she died in September, 1847. Sir Robert married, secondly, in January, 1850, Emily Georgiana Elise, eldest daughter of Mr. S. Benyon, of Ash Hall, Salop, and Stretchwork Park, Cambridgeshire. He succeeded to the baronetcy on the death of his father in 1841. The late Baronet was member for Bridport on petition. The first Baronet, Sir George Pigot, was Governor of Fort St. George, Madras; he was created a Baronet in 1764, with remainder to his brother, and, owing to his public services, was subsequently created a peer, by the title of Baron Pigot of Patshull, in the Peerage of Ireland, but on his death without issue the peerage became extinct.

MR. H. BLACKETT.—Mr. Henry Blackett, of the firm of Hurst and Blackett, the well-known publishers, died suddenly at his residence, The Green, Ealing, on Tuesday morning. The deceased gentleman was in his forty-fifth year. He was seized, on Sunday last, with an apoplectic fit, and, although he was attended by several eminent physicians, he never rallied. The deceased had been a resident in Ealing many years, and was well known and greatly respected. His partner, Mr. Hurst, died only a short time since.

MR. SAMPSON LOW, JUN.—Mr. Sampson Low, jun., who has just succumbed to a long and painful illness, which he bore with much patience, was the eldest son of Mr. Sampson Low, of Fleet-street. His bodily infirmities had for some years prevented his attending more than occasionally at the publishing office; but he nevertheless took an active and intelligent interest in all the business operations of the firm. In his early life Mr. Low connected himself with one of the most useful and admirable of our institutions, the Royal Society for the Protection of Life from Fire, and it is not too much to say that that society owed its existence and its continued prosperity to the zeal and efficiency of its secretary. When the society was absorbed by the Board of Works, some three years since, the subscribers recognised his services by presenting him with a handsome testimonial. Mr. Low will be remembered as the editor of "The Charities of London," an extremely useful volume, which has passed through many editions. Mr. Low was a conscientious and hard worker. He had travelled in America, and was thoroughly fitted by his knowledge of books for the post he held. We see by "Albion's Dictionary" that there have been three generations of the same family engaged as publishers—the second, Mr. Sampson Low, senior, the projector and editor of the *Publishers' Circular* and the *London Catalogue of Books*, still survives.

THE SMALLPOX EPIDEMIC.

At a meeting of the Metropolitan Asylums Board, last Saturday, reports were read showing that there were 129 smallpox patients in the hospital at Stockwell, 301 at Homerton, and 455 at Hampstead. The committee submitted to the board the recommendation made by Mr. Goschen at the conference which they had with him recently, that the managers ought to lose no time in procuring further sites and making more ample provision for the accommodation of smallpox patients. Mr. Corbet, the poor-law inspector, said that the Poor-Law Board had received a communication from the War Office stating that a site could be placed at the disposal of the managers which would enable them to erect and provide hospital accommodation to the extent of 400 beds. Such a hospital as that proposed could be entirely erected in six weeks, and would cost altogether about £20,000, or at the rate of about £50 a bed, exclusive of furniture and fittings. Mr. W. H. Smith, M.P., deprecated the board taking any action in the matter without knowing the character of the ground, and without having any plans whatever before them. He moved a resolution to that effect, which was carried nem. con. It was resolved to appropriate the old workhouse at Islington to the purposes of a convalescent hospital for 200 people.

Last Saturday a deputation of gentlemen connected with the medical profession held a conference at the Health Department of the Privy Council with Dr. Simon, the medical officer of the Government, with whom was Dr. Seaton, the Chief Inspector of Vaccination. The deputation represented the British Medical Association and the Poor-Law Medical Officers' Association. In the course of a long conference, which lasted nearly three hours, Dr. Rogers, the president of the last-mentioned body, pointed out that the large consolidation of vaccination districts which had been made tended to throw too much work on one officer, and was unjust to the medical officers who had discharged this duty, a large number of whom had been dismissed and their work thrown upon those remaining to carry out the views of the Privy Council. He explained at length and recommended the Irish system of vaccination. Mr. Benson Baker pointed out the facilities which the poor-law medical officers have for acting as vaccinators, for knowing where smallpox existed among the poor, and for instantly vaccinating all the residents of a house where it showed itself. Mr. Ernest Hart, speaking as a representative of the British Medical Association, urged that the section of the Compulsory Vaccination Act providing for the appointment by guardians of vaccination inspectors and protectors should be made mandatory, instead of permissive. It was now in many places a dead letter; and this fact led to the whole secret of the present epidemic, for if that law had been fully carried out smallpox would not now be raging. In the name of a number of public vaccinators who had communicated with him, he urged also that the rules relating to the extra gratuities for vaccination should be published, and that payments for domiciliary vaccination should be made. Mr. Harding, a public vaccinator, represented that the system of payment for results only in re-vaccination involved hardship, inasmuch as re-vaccination was equally important as a test, and

involved as much labour, whether pustules were produced or not. He held, also, that stationary vaccinators should be paid for all vaccinations performed by them at their stations, whether of persons in or out of the district. Many other questions of arrangement were carefully discussed. Dr. Simon entered into all the questions very minutely, and at length announced that he would reconsider the mode of payment for re-vaccination, with respect to which he thought a case had been made out, and so, he thought, was the case for vaccination at stations of extra-parochial cases. In reply to Mr. Ernest Hart, he explained why it had been difficult hitherto to publish all the rules relating to extra gratuities for vaccination, but agreed that it would be advantageous if the course suggested were adopted, and undertook to do so, probably, he added, in his next annual report. He entered into details on some of the larger questions raised, and explained that it had been necessary to enlarge districts in the public interest in order to secure arm to arm vaccination. In conclusion, he expressed his deep obligations to the gentlemen present for the valuable experience which they had placed at his disposal, and said, if they wished any of their number to be examined before the Poor-Law Vaccination Committee now sitting, he would take care they should be summoned. The deputation thanked Dr. Simon and withdrew.

The Registrar-General for Scotland shows in his report on the year 1868, recently issued, that in that year there were vaccinated in Scotland 106,181 children, and only two are recorded to have died from the consequences of vaccination—that is, one death in 53,000 cases. So groundless is the prejudice against vaccination as being dangerous to life. It must be borne in mind that the constitutions of some children are such that the slightest scratch or abrasion of the skin is followed by inflammation and death. The Registrar-General is of opinion that, had vaccination been no more perfect than it was ten years ago in Scotland, it is probable that 500 of these children would have died from smallpox; but, in fact, only fifteen deaths from smallpox were registered in Scotland in that year. It is the smallest number ever registered in that country in a year.

LONDON POLICE COURTS.

CHARGE OF PERJURY.—Mr. Thomas Joseph George, a solicitor, was charged on remand at Marlborough-street, on Saturday, with perjury. Mr. Straight, the counsel for the prosecution, said that before 1868 the defendant was a solicitor on the rolls, and carried on business at No. 14, Piccadilly, renting the premises from Mr. White, army accoutrement maker; two other persons, named Braham and Salmonado and Co., having offices at the same place, Braham as a bill discounter, and Salmonado (who real name was Johnstone, and who was employed at a theatre at £1 a week) as a wine merchant, the three firms being in reality only one firm—that of Thomas George. Mr. Denman, a member of Tattersalls', carrying on business at Liverpool and Manchester, being desirous of having a London agency, advertised for suitable accommodation, making it perfectly clear for what purpose the accommodation was required. His advertisement was answered by Mr. George, and after some negotiations Mr. Denman took rooms at No. 14, Piccadilly, paying a year's rent—£150—in advance. After a time, Mr. George proposed that Denman should take a lease of the whole of the upper part of the house, although he had no right to sublet without the authority of Mr. White, stating that, if Denman would provide £500, he would dispose of his interest in the lease—his object evidently being either that he might take a trip on the Continent or that he might pay his outstanding debts. This scheme did not succeed. George then went to Chancery, filed a bill of complaint, and swore affidavits before Vice-Chancellor Malins to the effect that Denman was carrying on a betting business; that he was not aware, when he let the premises, what they were required for; and, upon these and other grounds, obtained an injunction—no doubt with the view of effecting a compromise. It was on these affidavits that the charge of perjury was assigned. After the Chancery proceedings had gone on for about a year—the issue being doubtful—the place was shut up, the solicitor, wine merchant, and bill-discounter having all gone away. George, it appears, went to Paris, and some letters which he had written there, and which had fallen into the hands of the prosecution, were read to show with what object he had gone to Paris. In one of them he stated that he had got up "a supposed sale at an enormous sacrifice under liquidation." "You take," he wrote, "a shop undergoing repairs, or unfinished, or unlet, in a good situation, placard it strongly; then take out the windows, filled with the merchandise, and hire two or three ruffians to kick up a row, stating the wonderful opportunity, &c. I have introduced a new system into the business—dummy buyers and dummy brokers, as you know two or three people will always attract a crowd. This is one of the most paying games I could have started in a small way with £60 outlay. The return profits are £3 a day. I do nothing myself but organise this on a large scale. £100 a day might be made easily by taking a large shop on the boulevards." In the same letter he wrote:—"The old man who witnessed the affidavits cannot live long; he is over sixty and ailing; and, if the worst comes to the worst, I must wait until he goes to the place where we must all, sooner or later, go to, before I return." The case was adjourned.

HISSING IN A THEATRE.—A gentleman made an application before Mr. Flowers, at Bow-street, last Saturday, under the following circumstances:—He said: "Your Worship, I went to the Adelphi Theatre, and I was in the pit. I waited out some part of the performance, and in one scene—I think it was the wreck at Deadman's Point—I hissed, not being satisfied with it. There were immediately cries of 'Turn him out!' I said, 'There is no necessity to turn me out. I am disgusted with the piece;' and I got up to leave. I was then set upon by three men, evidently employed by Mr. Webster, and they pushed me. When I got into the street I was further pushed by a man whom I do not know and a constable. I was almost induced to commit a breach of the peace." Mr. Flowers: "Do you know who the people were who pushed you?" Applicant: "I

know one man who did. I saw Mr. Anson, the treasurer, and gave him my card. I told him if he would give me an apology in the name of Mr. Webster I would be satisfied. Mr. Anson said he would not do this, as he had an answer if I chose to make any complaint against him." Mr. Flowers: "If you were assaulted in being put out, of course you are entitled to a summons for that assault; but, if your statement is really true, and you were willing to leave, I think, if you mentioned that to Mr. Webster, he would give you an apology, for it cannot be expected at theatres that applause must always be given." The applicant thanked his Worship, and said he should act upon his suggestion.

CAPTURE OF BURGLARS.—Henry Dunn, Amelia Dunn, William Kitchen, and Ellen Kitchen, were charged before Mr. Tyrwhitt, at Marlborough-street, on Monday, with burglariously breaking into and entering the premises of Mr. Force, 79, Oxford-street, and stealing thence a large quantity of ribbons, lace, silk jackets, &c. Superintendent Dunlop, of the C Division, watched the case. Detective Charles Butcher said, on Saturday night, at half-past ten o'clock, in company with Detective Shives, he was passing up Wells-street, Oxford-street, when he saw the two male prisoners in a public-house at the corner of Wells-street and Castle-street. He watched for some minutes, and saw them come out in company with some females whom he believed to be the prisoners. As, however, they separated from the men, he lost sight of them. Knowing Dunn's address to be 38, George-street, Hampstead-road, he and Shives went there, remained near the house till ten minutes past twelve, when the man Dunn came and entered the house with a latch-key, staying indoors till half-past twelve, at which time he came out accompanied by the woman Dunn. Witness waited till half-past three, when the woman Dunn came home and let herself in, and about a minute afterwards a light was seen in the kitchen. At 5.30 she came out again, and Shives followed her. About twenty minutes past six both female prisoners returned home, and Dunn opened the door. Again they came out, and this time Shives and another detective, named Beechey, followed them. At eight o'clock the detectives returned, and in about ten minutes' time the witness observed the two Duns and the man Kitchen come up George-street from the direction of Euston-road, the men in front of the female, who carried a large bundle on her head. The man Dunn took out a key, and all went in. About three minutes afterwards the female Kitchen came up and looked down the area railings, upon which the door was opened, and she entered, remaining inside for five minutes and then coming out again, with Mrs. Dunn, Shives and Beechey following them. Witness now sent to Albany-street for assistance, and soon afterwards Shives and Beechey returned with some officers in uniform. They knocked at the door and were let in by the landlord, to whom witness explained that they wanted to go down into the kitchen. As they attempted to enter that apartment Dunn shut the door; but the officers immediately opened it and went in. Witness, addressing Dunn, said, "Harry, I want you; I have seen you with a large bundle of things, and I don't think it is all right." Dunn replied that he had brought nothing in, and that he had only just got out of bed. Witness answered, "No, but your old woman brought it in, and you were with her;" upon which Dunn remarked, "I am glad you were not here a few minutes before." Witness said it made no difference, as the females were already in custody and taken to the station-house. He then asked Dunn if he had any tools, such as "jimmies," and he replied he had not. Witness told him that if he had it would be better to give them up at once. Dunn again denied having any tools; but on removing a loose board near the fireplace witness found seventeen skeleton keys, seven picklocks, a bunch of other keys, seven centrepieces, three files, two chisels, and a dark-lantern, each skeleton key being wrapped in a separate piece of rag. He also found an old teatray which had been practised on with some of the centrepieces, three big holes being bored similar to some lately found made in the iron lining of various shop shutters. Witness now took the two men and a quantity of property to the Marlborough-mews station, but they had not been there long before a lady in the employ of Mr. Force, of Oxford-street, came to the station and said that the house had been broken open during the night and a large quantity of property stolen; and she at once identified the property found in the possession of the prisoners as belonging to Mr. Force. The till produced had holes in it which corresponded with one of the centrepieces found. Detective Shives, after giving similar evidence to Butcher, said that he and Beechey followed the female prisoners, and, telling them that they would be taken into custody, sent them to the station with other officers. He then went back to George-street, where he found a large quantity of property on a bed and in a bag; in the middle of the bag there was a "jemmy." The man Dunn said, "You have got us and the property, but it don't belong to us, and I give you credit." Witness then went to Kitchen's lodgings, No. 18, Stanhope-street, Hampstead-road, and in the front kitchen found five ladies' jackets. Detective Beechey, after corroborating the other officers, said he saw the man Dunn carrying a parcel, and afterwards give it to the woman Dunn, who carried it home.

Inspector Shaw, C Division, said that after taking the charge against the prisoners, which was for having a large quantity of property in their possession supposed to be stolen, a lady came to the station and said the house of Mr. Force had been broken open, and at once identified the property. He afterwards went to Mr. Force's premises, which had been entered by pulling up the floor of the shutter-box. He found on a "jemmy" similar coloured paint to that on the drawers, several of which had been forced. Miss Selina Lewes, manageress to Mr. Monteath Force, milliner, 79, Oxford-street, said that everything was quite safe, the premises being perfectly secured on Saturday night at half-past ten; but that on Sunday morning, as she was going to church, she missed property to the value of about £200. A young man named Hann, porter to Mr. Force, proved securely locking up the place at half-past eight on Saturday night, the flooring of the shutter-box being quite safe. The till produced was his employer's property. Superintendent Dunlop said the male prisoner Dunn had been convicted before of burglary. He believed the other prisoners were also known to the police, and he therefore wished for a remand. Mr. Tyrwhitt granted the application.

POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION.—A change of programme has just been made at the Royal Polytechnic Institution, and it is anything but Lenten fare which Professor Pepper has provided for his guests. Several attractions were introduced for the first time on Wednesday night, amidst the hearty applause of a crowded house. First came some admirable ventriloquial performances by Mr. E. D. Davies, and then a new lecture by Professor Pepper, on Astronomy, in the large theatre. Another feature in the entertainment was a series of illustrations of Collins's "Ode to the Passions," by Madame Bousfield, whose representations of the Seasons in the Christmas performance were so well received. On the present occasion there were ten tableaux, in which the lady gave marble-like personations of love, fear, despair, hope, &c., and so close was the resemblance to statuary that some time had passed before the audience comprehended that the artistic figure was one of flesh and blood. Last, though not least, came a thoroughly laughable, musical, and farcical sketch, by Mr. Grossmith, jun., whose versatility amazed as much as it delighted the beholders. In these constant changes of programme to suit particular seasons, the Polytechnic managers leave no stone unturned to secure the public favour. One thing only seems to be wanting—namely, a few additional novelties in the large hall, such as more modern scientific inventions and working models, which are now brought to a state of perfection, but which have no place in the gallery and area, where the visitors love to wander between the pieces. Grown-up persons, as well as children, are open to being taught by object lessons; and the class who make up the Polytechnic audiences are peculiarly receptive to instruction through this practical medium.

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Elastic Stockings and Knee Caps
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Price from 10s. upwards, with all the Recent Improve-
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With Lists of Prices, and plans of the 20 large Show-Rooms, at
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£1500 worth Fancy Silks 25s. 6d. to 34s. 6d.
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1500 Odd Dresses, 12 to 20 yards, 2s. to 8s. 6d.—half price.
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100 New Shades, 25s. 6d. Full Dress, any length,
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1200 Pieces Real French, from 4½d. to 1s. 6d. yard.
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One trial will establish
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In Ten Minutes. From 4½d. to 11d. a Pint. Concentrated,
Pure, Nutritious,
Carrot, Green Pea,
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WHITEHEAD'S SOLIDIFIED SQUARES,
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This celebrated and most delicious old mellow spirit is
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70,000 Cures by DU BARRY'S
DELICIOUS REVALENTA ARABICA FOOD,
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DU BARRY'S REVALENTA CHOCOLATE POWDER,
1½ lb., 2s.; 1 lb., 3s. 6d.; 2½ lb., 5s.; 12½ lb., 30s.; 24 lb., 55s.;
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QUININE WINE as supplied to the
Sick and Wounded. The expensive forms in which this
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arises from its careful preparation by the manufacturer. Each
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see that they have Waters's Quinine Wine; for the result of
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GLENFIELD
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see that you get it,
as inferior kinds are often substituted
for the sake of extra profits.

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Boxes of Eight Sittings, each Box £45 4s.
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After the Opening a Grand Miscellaneous Concert, conducted
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Patron—THE QUEEN.
Orphans of persons once in respectable positions are eligible.
Seventy-three were admitted last year.
257 are on the books now.
The constant applications for admission, as well as the present
high numbers, cause the committee some anxiety for the future.
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women and fatherless babes," is, therefore, urgently needed.
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Offices, 100, Fleet-street, E.C.

THREE THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED
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in the year 1813.
Designed originally for 300 orphans, for years past the Asylum
has sheltered 450 children, until medical authority protested
against the reception of so large a number. The alternative of
reduced numbers or of extension was presented.
With nearly two hundred candidates seeking admission at
each half-yearly election, the Managers resolved to build a Home
in the country, which should ultimately shelter 800 orphans,
and admit of the reception of 100 children annually.
The new Asylum in course of erection at Watford provides
for the immediate shelter of 450 orphans, but the buildings are
erected on the spot of ultimate accommodation for 800 orphans.
A further outlay, as funds admit, of about £12,000, will give
ample and complete accommodation for the entire number.
The building is rapidly advancing towards completion.
It is remarkable for its good working qualities and the absence
of all unsuitable ornament.
The large outlay is accounted for by the provision of sufficient
cubical space for so large a number of inmates.
The effort will exhaust the reserve fund and leave the Charity
dependent on voluntary aid.
On this account the Managers very earnestly plead for aid to
the Building Fund. They appeal with confidence because the
labours of the Charity are as widely known as they are ap-
preciated, extending as they do to orphans of every class
locally.
The Managers respectfully submit that it is hardly possible to
present a stronger claim to public sympathy and aid than their
in their endeavour to afford, in the best possible way, a
larger amount of relief to the widow and the fatherless.
Further donations to the Building Fund will be gratefully
received, and announced at the Anniversary, on Wednesday, the
10th inst.

Annual subscription for one vote, 10s. 6d.; for two votes, £1 1s.
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INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL, SOHO, W.C.—Sixty boys,
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Thirty-eight have left it during the past year, permanently pro-
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receive nightly shelter in the Refuge from the inclemency of
the weather. FUND is most urgently REQUIRED to carry
on the institution; unless they are provided, the Committee
will be compelled to limit their work of Charity. W. Bayne
Ranken, Esq., at the Refuge; and Owen H. Morhead, Esq., at
the War Office, S.W., the Hon. Secs, will thankfully receive
subscriptions and donations.

FIELD-LANE RAGGED SCHOOLS,
REFUGES, &c.
President—Earl of SHAFTESBURY.
Treasurer—George Moore, Esq.
Open all the year.—WINTER APPEAL.—A very earnest
Appeal for Funds has become necessary to carry on the work
of instruction and succour afforded by this Institution.
The year's statistics show 1300 children under instruction;
257 placed out; a large attendance at the Ragged Church service;
and women of character passed through the Refuge; 1500
placed out; 47,000 persons attended the Ragged Church service;
225 servants clothed and sent to domestic service. Altogether,
100,000 persons benefited during the year, at a cost of £3000, con-
tributed by voluntary contributions.
Donations will be thankfully received by the bankers, Messrs.
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Fleet-street; Messrs. George Moore, Esq., Treasurer, Bow-church-
yard; or by Mr. Samuel Tawell, Hon. Sec., 17, Berners-street, W.

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School for Destitute Girls Not Convicted of Crime, 23,
Charlotte-street, Portland-place, W.
SUBSCRIPTIONS and DONATIONS thankfully received at
the Home; or at the National Provincial Bank of England, 28,
Baker-street.
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the Best Remedy for
Acidity of the Stomach, Heartburn, Headache,
Gout, and indigestion; and as a mild aperient for delicate
constitutions. Ladies, Children, and Infants.
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is quickly Relieved,
and Cured in a few days,
by that celebrated Medicine,
BLAIR'S GOUT and RHEUMATISM PILLS.
They require no restraint of diet
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and are certain to
prevent the return of the
agony of a vital part.

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LAVENDER and SLATE are now added to the already
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of clothing. Of Chemists everywhere.

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By reason of the great benefit derived from the use of
TWINBERRY'S DANDELION, CAMOMILE, and
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the most efficient have been devised to their great value, and medi-
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